New round of oil price hikes looms, says energy chief

Story on Page B1

PNP waives height bar for honest mall guard

By TJ Burgonio in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr.,
PDI Visayas Bureau

MALL security guard Ma. Fe Sotelo, who had wanted to join the police but failed because of height and age requirements, just might get her wish.

After returning a lost bag containing

PNP/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Without sex, banana's days are numbered

LONDON—What has sex got to do with it? Everything, as far as the banana is concerned.

One of the world's favorite fruits, the banana hasn't had sex in years and its days are numbered, ac-

WITHOUT/ A18

I NEED THE REAL THING

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, January 17, 2003 ★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol. 18 / no. 40 P15
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GENERATIONAL EDWIN BACASMAS
With her parents' portraits as backdrop, the President unveils plans to create a "nautical highway" during the inaugural of the Eva Macapagal passenger terminal and the launch of the Superferry 15 in Port Area, Manila, on Thursday. *(Story on Page A5.)*

Velarde bans politicos on Shaddai stage

You want our vote? Be member first

By Armand N. Nocum

IN THESE "no politics" times, the privilege of communing with the vote-rich El Shaddai will have a price—and it will not come cheap.

To be able to spend precious hours praying with and waving to members of the charismatic prayer group during their weekend overnight assemblies, politicians courting votes will first have to register as card-carrying members themselves.

El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde noted that politicians had been attending his group's prayer rallies on Roxas Boulevard simply because "they want to campaign." He admitted that he had grown weary of such freeloaders.

"I think it is high time they became real followers or members of the El Shaddai before we allow them to be on the stage," Velarde told reporters Wednesday at the launch of the new coalition Bangon Pilipino Movement (BPM), of which he is a member.

"Normally, when the election is still far away some politicians do not show up at

VELARDE/ A20

GMA won't crack whip on Cha-cha

By Carlito Pablo

AS HEAD of her party, why isn't President Macapagal-Arroyo cracking the whip on her party mates in Congress to stop them from rewriting the 1987 Constitution?

Ms Macapagal has not heeded administration Sen. Juan Flavier's suggestion that the President, as chair of the ruling Lakas-CMD party, order her party mates to adhere to her position that the economic reform agenda is the priority, not changes in the Constitution.

"It would be difficult to interfere with their legislative prerogatives," said presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

He also reminded that the President herself had already made known her

GMA/ A18

Buck-passing: Erap blames GMA; FVR tags Erap

By Volt Contreras and Norman Bordadora

HIS three-hour Senate testimony on Tuesday was apparently not long enough for deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada yesterday continued to assail the Macapagal administration, particularly recently resigned Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, over the controversial Impsa power deal.

From his detention suite, Estrada continued to insist that the allegedly onerous contract was "finalized and made effective" under the incumbent administration and not during his. In his much-ballyhooed testimony, Estrada accused Perez of inserting a direct government guarantee provision into the contract through his Jan. 24, 2001 opinion.

But another ex-President, Fidel Ramos, yesterday turned the tables on Estrada.

Ramos said that the draft of the contract as approved by the National Economic Development Authority board during his administration contained a provision disallowing a government guarantee on the build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer deal.

"(The provision) was taken out and deleted in the Nov. 6, 1998 Impsa-Napocor BROT agreement signed during

BUCK-PASSING/ A18

Judge orders Lacson to appear in US court

By TJ Burgonio

A CALIFORNIA judge has ordered Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson to appear in court in March and to present documents, including statements of accounts, in connection with an earlier order asking him to pay $3 million to a businesswoman over a failed handcuffs deal with the Philippine National Police (PNP).

"You are ordered to appear personally before this court or before a referee appointed by the court to furnish information to aid in the enforcement of a money judgment against you," said Judge Harry R. Sheppard of the Superior Court.

Sheppard warned Lacson that he would be arrested or cited for contempt if he did not appear in court at the County of Alameda in Oakland, California, at 2 p.m. on March 5.

"If you fail to appear at the time and place specified in this order, you may be subject to arrest and punishment for contempt of court, and the court may make an order requiring you to pay the reasonable fees incurred by the judgment creditor in this proceeding," the judge said in his Jan. 13 order, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

Sigfrid Fortun, a lawyer for Lacson, said yesterday that his client was not bothered at all by the order.

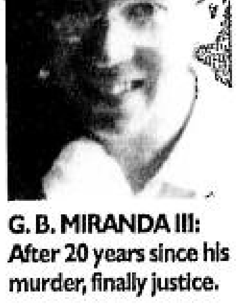
Fortun said the California Superior Court's Jan. 13 order could not be enforced in the Philippines because his client was neither

JUDGE/ A19

BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

THE RETURN of the native way of planting rice in the Ifugao rice terraces aims to preserve what has been called the "8th wonder of the world." An Ifugao woman in Kiangan town prepares for the planting season according to the old farming practices of her ancestors.

Ex-Navy captain in road rage slay hunted by cops



G. B. MIRANDA III: After 20 years since his murder, finally justice.

By Leila B. Salaverria

AFTER almost 20 years, this case of road rage appears to be nearing closure.

Police are hunting down retired Navy Capt. Eladio C. Tangan, 60, who was convicted of killing optometrist Generoso Miranda III in a traffic altercation in 1984.

Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court issued on Jan. 7 a warrant for Tangan's arrest in connection with his conviction of homicide. The Supreme Court last year ordered Tangan's imprisonment for a minimum of six years and one day and a maximum of 14 years, eight months and one day.

EX-NAVY/ A20

Back to old farming ways for Ifugaos

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KIANGAN, Ifugao—With "mumbakis" (native high priests) chanting their rituals on top of a mountain overlooking the rice terraces, Ifugao women started planting rice here Tuesday in a bid to revive traditional ways to protect this province's world-famous rice terraces.

The ambitious bid covered rice farms involving more than 100 rice paddies in Barangays Julungan and Nagacadan here—declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as World Heritage sites.

The "mumbakis" performed the "bolnat," a rice ritual conducted during the planting of the native rice tinawon.

Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr., together with two mumbakis in g-strings, danced and dug several rice paddies to prepare them for planting.

"We are trying to come up with a demonstration farm where the indigenous Ifugao way of farming will be practiced," said Angeli-

BACK/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of the country will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/01/17/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

3 Marines slain in clash with Abus

By Martin P. Marfil and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THREE Marines, including a young lieutenant, were killed while six others were wounded in a clash with about 200 Abu Sayyaf and Misuari breakaway group fighters yesterday on Mount Bagsak, Patikul, Sulu.

A report reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the fire-fight started at around 7 a.m. when government troops on patrol ran into the rebel group led by Radulan Sahiron or Commander Putol.

The Southern Command identified the slain officer as 2nd Lt. Beethoven Landingin, a member of PMA Class '99. Landingin would have been 26 years old on Saturday. The other fatalities and the wounded were not identified.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, Task Force Comet chief, said the rebels were "a bigger group and there's a possibility other Abu Sayyaf factions like the Basilan group led by Khadaffy Janjalani and Isnilon Hapilon had merged with Sahiron's group."

According to military intelligence, Janjalani and 50 followers arrived in Patikul in October last year.

Army Col. Alexander Aleo said the Abu Sayyaf were backed by gunmen loyal to Nur Misuari, former leader of the Moro National Liberation Front and former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, who is detained on rebellion charges.

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, Southern Command spokesperson, said the Abu Sayyaf faction led by Sahiron, one of the group's top five leaders, is wanted by the United States for the murder of two American hostages.

The same group is believed to be holding three Indonesian tugboat crewmen and four women Jehovah's Witnesses abducted last year. Aleo and Lucero said the hostages were not sighted during the clash.

The government forces belonged to the 1st Marine Reconnaissance Battalion under Lt. Col. Johnriel Senambre and the 4th Marine Battalion Landing Team under Lt. Col. Mario Montejo. The fire-fight lasted for three hours.

Marines Forces South commander Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda told the INQUIRER, "We believe that we inflicted casualties on the Abu Sayyaf. We cannot just determine the number because the fire-fight is ongoing."

In Zamboanga City, the Army captured an Abu Sayyaf leader identified as Adjid Moro, alias Abu Pakistan and Wahid Malli.

Moro, a report to Army chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling said, was an Abu Sayyaf procurement officer with a P1-million bounty on his head.

The Army's public information office, however, would not confirm if Moro was the same man on the reward list.

The report said Moro was arrested on Jan. 15 in the home of a retired Colonel Alih at Villa Sta. Maria Subdivision, Zamboanga City.

In another development, the military liberated several villages occupied by the main Muslim separatist group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), in Sultan Kudarat province last week.

The MILF and the Pentagon kidnap gang had joined forces and took over several villages near the town of Colombio, forcing hundreds of civilians to flee.

Five days of fighting with government forces followed, leaving 28 MILF rebels dead and 17 wounded, with one rebel captured, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said, citing field reports.

The military was able to overrun the rebel position, Reyes said. ***With a report from Joselle R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP***

Abu leader says gov't gave him money

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Hamsiraji Sali yesterday disclosed that he received money from the government in December as part of negotiations for his surrender.

"I was given P400,000 by CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group), rice, fish and canned goods," Sali, also known as Jose Ramirez, said.

But he declined to name the negotiators, and only said they were from the CIDG national headquarters, and were accompanied by local police and military officials.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya admitted that certain concessions were entered into "by some intermediaries" to convince Sali to give himself up.

Abaya said these consisted of "an earnest amount and several sacks of rice." But he said that based on the numerous demands, the bandit leader might just be "trying to put one over the negotiators."

Sali had not been acting in good faith, Abaya claimed. "After receiving the things that he asked for, he just disappeared."

He said Sali's failure to comply with agreements prompted the military and police to prevent other groups from further negotiating with the outlaw.

"If he wants to surrender, he has to do it unconditionally," Abaya said. ***Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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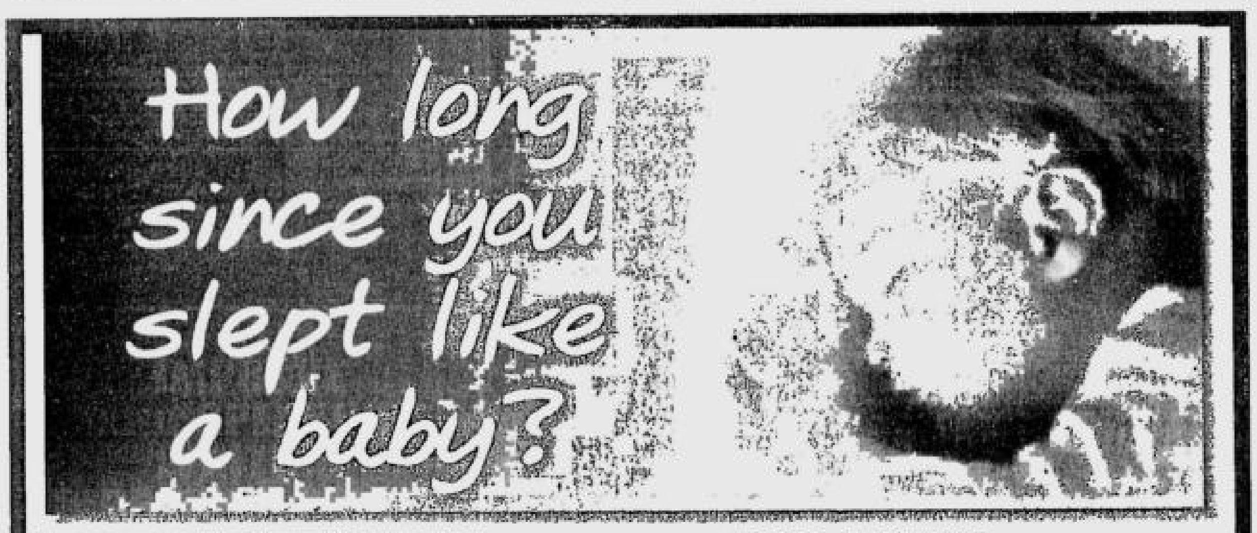
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3 RP sailors freed after siege on ship

LONDON—A five-hour siege on a cargo ship in the North Sea off Scotland ended on Wednesday when a Ukrainian crew member was arrested, police said.

He had forcibly taken control of the ship after a dispute with the rest of the crew, which included three Filipinos.

Two crew members were taken to hospital by air ambulance and one was seriously injured. Rescue workers put out a fire on board the ship.

The man took over the bridge shortly after dawn in a fracas among the five Dutch, Ukrainian and Philippine crew members.

The four others later jumped into the sea and were picked up by lifeboat. One of them suffered serious injuries.

Their identities were not given.

"The final crew member has been negotiated off the boat by the police. He has been arrested," a police spokesperson told Reuters.

Police ruled out any terror motives and said the man had been charged in connection with the siege and would appear in a Scottish court on Thursday.

Police also said fire on board appeared to have been contained.

The incident happened on a freighter called "Est" in the Cromarty Firth off Scotland's north-east coast. *Reuters*

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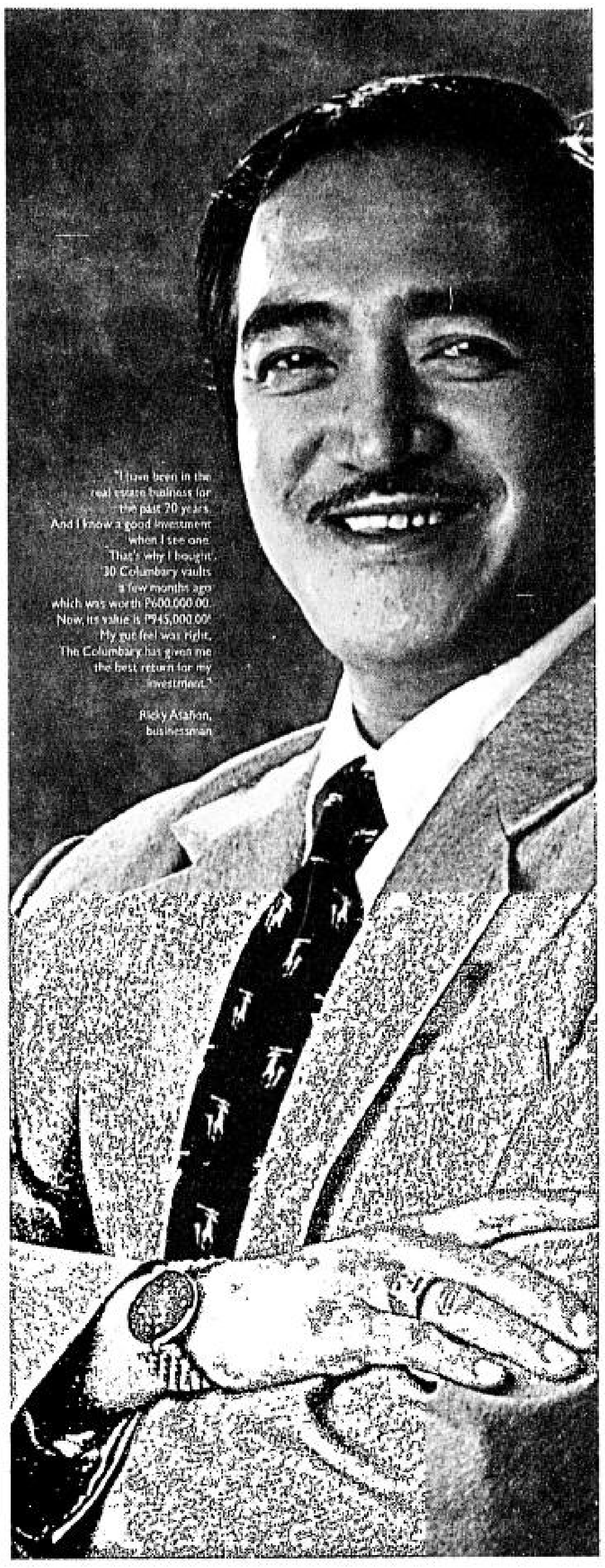

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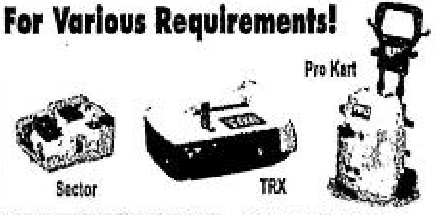

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PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane: Sotelo will boost our campaign for an honest, effective and competent police force.

THE SMALL town girl, security guard Ma. Fe Sotelo, becomes an instant celebrity in her native Zarraga, Iloilo. PDI PHOTO FILE

From page A1

P500,000 to its rightful owner last week, Sotelo received unusual praise in an unusual form: a directive from Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police.

"We are willing to bend the rules a little bit to accommodate Ma. Fe Sotelo. We need the likes of her in our ranks," Edbane said in a statement, even as he instructed the Directorate for Personnel and Records Management to waive the height and age requirements to allow her to join the PNP.

To be a police officer, an applicant must be at least 5 feet tall and no more than 25 years old. Sotelo, who is not yet 5 feet high, was 32 when she applied last August.

Sotelo also received praise from her *"kasimanwa"* (townmates) in her hometown of Zarraga, Iloilo, which was abuzz yesterday with the news.

But none was more heartfelt than the words of her father Bernardo, 65, who told the INQUIRER that he felt like a "very exceptional person because I have a daughter who did a feat considered as heroic."

"She did a good thing and she has brought honor to our family," he said, teary-eyed.

An honor

Ebdane said Sotelo's inclusion in the PNP would boost its campaign for an "honest, effective and competent police organization."

"It would be an honor to have her with us. She is living proof that honest people want to be policemen to bring about the desired changes in the police organization," he said.

On Jan. 7, Sotelo spotted a belt bag on the floor of the men's restroom while doing her rounds at the basement parking area of Festival Mall. She immediately brought it to the administration office where it was opened, yielding the cash.

The mall management cited Sotelo for her honesty and gave her a P5,000 reward. But she refused a cash reward from Wang Chao Wei, owner of the bag that she had found.

"We're glad that in this country, there are still good examples of honesty. A humble person like her doing something like this is an encouragement," said Mike Gotianun, vice president of Filinvest Development Corp., which runs the mall.

Proud townmates

Sotelo's older sister, Yolanda Sotelo-Patrivo, said many people in Zarraga were talking about the security guard invariably described as shy and kind.

"Our neighbors and friends have unceasingly teased us that they saw her on TV and in newspapers," she said.

Bernardo said he only knew of his daughter's heroism when he was at a coffee shop yesterday, after a relative told him that she had appeared on news reports on television.

Cop or nun

Cecilia Sotelo-Segura, Ma. Fe's cousin, said her co-employees at the municipal hall showed her the INQUIRER story.

At the University of Iloilo in Iloilo City where Sotelo graduated as an associate of Police Science and Technology, employees and former teachers said they were proud that one of their former students has become a model of honesty.

Clarito Noel, crime laboratory technician at the College of Criminology, said he had only a faint recollection of "the small girl" in a class of 150, but he said they were all proud of what she did.

"She was *'bugoy-bugoy'* (rugged), often playing boys' games like shooting birds with a slingshot or going fishing. But she was upright," said Bernardo.

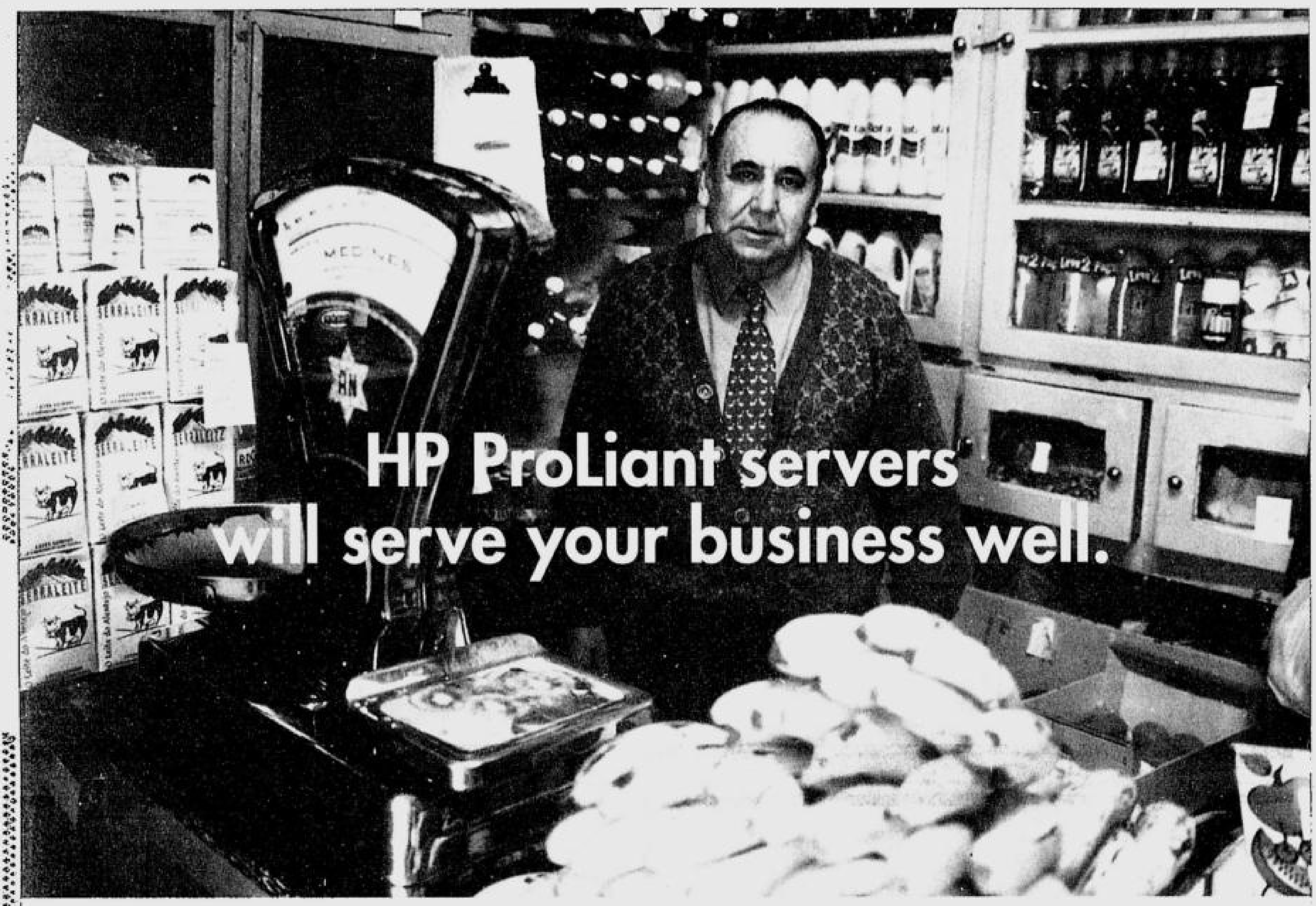
He said his family agreed to his daughter's career choice, which was a toss-up between becoming a policewoman and a nun. "That's her choice and we supported her," he added.

A laborer most of his life, Bernardo managed to have all his children finish college through hard work and with the help of scholarships.

He now earns an income by driving a motorcycle given by his only son, Bernardo Jr.

"I always told my children it's better to pick a fight than to steal. That is not acceptable in our family despite being poor," he said.

Yolanda said returning the bag was the logical thing for her sister to do, because "we were raised that way."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NAIA 3 AT SC

Piatco wants PAL out; unions cry monopoly

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE International Airport Terminals, Co., yesterday asked the Supreme Court to strike off the record several manifestations filed by Philippine Airlines in connection with Piatco's contracts with the government.

Lawyer Francisco I. Chavez, Piatco legal counsel, said the pleading submitted by PAL in the consolidated cases questioning the contract was out of place since neither PAL nor its chairman, Lucio Tan, is a party to the case.

Malacañang has declared null and void Piatco's contracts to build and operate Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Two Senate committees which investigated the contracts gave conflicting findings, the blue ribbon committee of Sen. Joker Arroyo confirming the Malacañang position and the committee on constitutional amendments under Sen. Edgardo Angara concluding that the contract was valid.

However, the final verdict will be rendered by the Supreme Court, which had suggested that the government and Piatco try to resolve the dispute through mediation or arbitration.

The consolidated cases at the Supreme Court against the Piatco agreement were originally filed by four congressmen led by Rep. Salacnib F. Baterina, Demosthenes P. Agan, Jr. of the Miascor union, Miascor Groundhandling Corporation and a certain Ceferino C. Lopez.

In his motion to strike out PAL manifestation, Chavez said that on a procedural basis, the manifestation should not be entertained as PAL has yet to get permission from the Supreme Court to intervene in the case.

In their manifestation, the unions, whose members provide ground services at the Naia, are asking the Supreme Court to block the Piatco contracts, saying these will create an "absolute monopoly" on airport services for up to 50 years.

In their petition for a restraining order, labor unions of four companies providing in-flight catering, passenger and cargo handling, aircraft maintenance, and other ground services at Naia argued that Piatco's contracts violated the Constitution "by creating an absolute, unlawful monopoly."

Under Piatco's contracts with the government, Naia Terminals 1 and 2 will be shut down to allow Terminal 3, which Piatco is building, to operate as the sole international passenger terminal in Luzon.

The contracts of all companies currently providing services at the two existing terminals will no longer be renewed. The Philippine Airport and Ground Services Inc., a member of the Piatco consortium, will be the sole provider of ground services at Naia for 25 to 50 years.

Gloria bats for 'nautical highway'

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo wants to create a "nautical highway" to facilitate inter-island travel and bring down transport costs.

She unveiled her plan at the inauguration yesterday of the newest passenger terminal at the Manila South Harbor.

The terminal is named after her late mother, Eva Macapagal.

The 2,878 square meter-Eva Macapagal Super Terminal, built by Asian Terminals Inc., is so far the biggest passenger terminal in the country.

The "nautical highway" calls for the modernization of ports and "roll-on/roll-off" (ro-ro) transport systems from Mindanao to Visayas to Luzon.

The "ro-ro" is a mode of marine transport where vehicles carrying people and cargo are wheeled on and off specially-built vessels that serve as bridges between islands.

A ro-ro system eliminates cargo handling charges, thus reducing transport costs in bringing agricultural products from the countryside to the urban markets.

Captain of the ship

Ms Macapagal called on the private sector to invest in the port modernization program, for which the Development Bank of the Philippines has earmarked $20 billion in long-term loans.

After the inauguration, the President also launched the Super Ferry 15.

"It's a good thing we are going to launch a ship so I can use that analogy and give notice that notwithstanding that I am not running for president in 2004... I am the captain of the ship. And I am going to focus like a laser beam on the economy for the next 18 months," she said.

Ms Macapagal yesterday laid out the western seaboard portion of the nautical highway.

At present, sea vessels take the eastern seaboard route from Aparri to Davao that goes through Samar and Leyte.

"Now you can go from Aparri to Davao going through Batangas, Mindoro all the way down to the Zamboanga Peninsula," the President said.

She said the western seaboard ro-ro system will cover Batangas, Pulupandan, Dumaguete, Calapan in Mindoro, Dapitan City, Caticlan, Iloilo City and Guimaras.

Hog raisers hail effort vs meat, veggie smuggling

LOCAL hog raisers yesterday hailed the seizure of at least 14 container vans of smuggled meat, vegetables and fruits from China, Thailand, Canada and Korea.

Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines president lawyer Nicanor Briones expressed satisfaction that the government has been giving attention to the problem of meat importation, which he said has been continuously affecting the swine industry.

Briones, who is also the president of the Limcoma Multipurpose Cooperative (Limcoma), noted last year, the local swine industry lost at least P1.5 billion in earnings with the dumping of foreign meat products in the country.

He lauded President Macapagal-Arroyo for giving attention to the drive against smuggling. He also expressed optimism that the Bureau of Customs and the anti-smuggling task force would continue the efforts against meat smuggling.

Until recently, he noted, the task force had been going only after vegetable smugglers.

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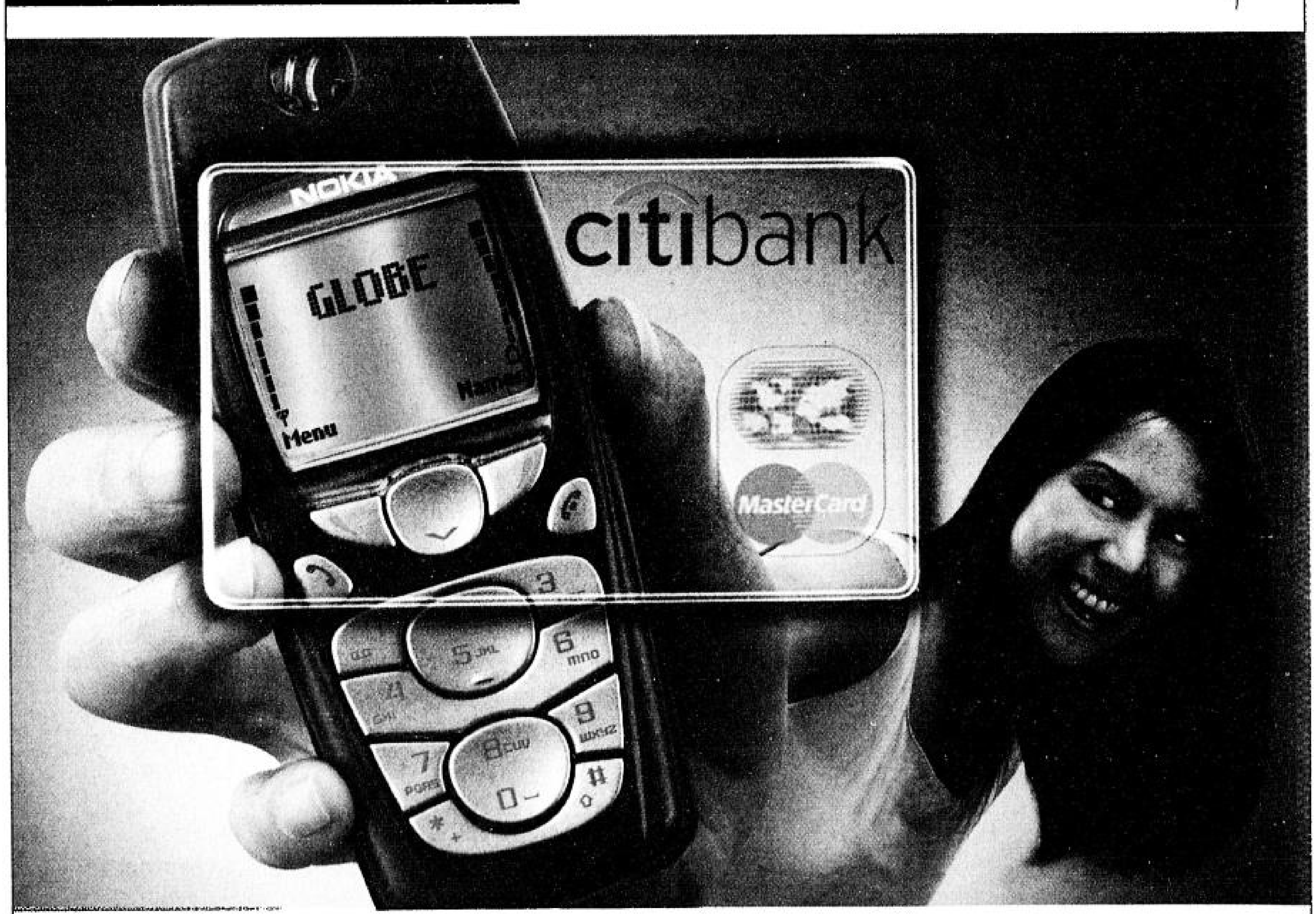

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HAVE YOU SEEN THESE MEN?
Relatives of Baron Cervantes family and Dante Jimenez, president of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, give out pamphlets containing photos of P/Supt. Rafael Cardeno and Sonny Camacho, the primary suspects of the Cervantes killing, to Manila motorists calling for their arrest. A reward of P1 million has been offered for their arrest.

ERIK ARAZAS

Senators not keen on visiting MJ

By Cynthia D. Balana

MOST SENATORS don't think it's a good idea for some of their colleagues to fly to Miami, Florida to depose Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez on what he knows about the controversial Impsa (Industrias Metallurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anonima) contract.

Under the rules of court, a deposition is taken when a witness cannot be brought before the court to give direct testimony.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said most of the senators were against going to Miami to get Jimenez's testimony since this could be done by a Philippine consular official.

Sen. Ralph Recto said Rep. Prospero Pichay had quoted Jimenez as saying that the latter had nothing to do with the Impsa deal.

"So maybe it would be a waste of time going to Miami; and it's not a good idea to get the deposition of someone who is wearing a prison uniform," Recto said.

Sen. Robert Barbers said other angles in the Impsa controversy need to be looked at by the senators, not just the $14-million bribe allegedly offered by Jimenez to former President Joseph Estrada.

"We just resumed our sessions and it would be very unproductive for senators to go to the US to get Jimenez's testimony," Barbers said.

"It would certainly impede the passage of several significant legislative measures that we had worked on for the past months," he added.

But Sen. John Osmeña, chair of the Senate committee on government corporations and public enterprises, is determined to go to the US.

He said three members of his committee and three of Jimenez's lawyers will fly to Florida on Wednesday after the end of the Senate session and return to Manila on the weekend.

The National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that even if Jimenez was allowed to post bail, he still won't be able to return to the Philippines between his court hearings, as he had planned.

With Rocky Nazareno and Philip Tubeza

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SWS SURVEY

Half of Pinoys poor but upbeat on 2003

By Michelle V. Remo

ALMOST all Filipinos feel upbeat about this year, in spite of the fact that more than half considered themselves poor in 2002.

This was one of several bright conclusions drawn from the Social Weather Stations' review of its 2002 surveys.

In SWS' nationwide survey on self-rate poverty last November, 61 percent of the respondents said they considered themselves poor. The survey question was: "Where would you place your family (not poor, on the line, poor)?"

Families living below the poverty line said the monthly household budget should be at least P7,500 for them to avoid feeling poor. The "non-poor" and those living "on the line" said they needed at least P10,000, and that a monthly household budget of P20,000 would make them feel "rich."

Not surprisingly, the survey on "the most (serious) problem of the country," conducted in September, yielded conclusions related to poverty. Inflation and unemployment were topnotchers, with 28 and 26 percent of the votes, respectively.

'With fear'

Ranked third was crime, with only 13 percent; then other economic problems, 10 percent; security, 8 percent; governance, 7 percent and politics, 3 percent.

Overall, 95 percent of the respondents said they faced 2003 "with hope." The remaining 5 percent approached it "with fear."

Nearly as high as this optimism was "pride in being Filipino," with 68 percent saying they were "very proud," and 19 percent "quite proud." Only 6 percent said they were "not very proud," and 7 percent "not proud at all."

Another September survey explored life satisfaction. Of the more than half that said they were "satisfied," 45 percent modified their response as "fairly" satisfied, and 16 percent as "very" satisfied.

Only 7 percent said they were "not at all satisfied," and 32 percent were "not very satisfied."

The review also revisited public opinion on major news events and such subjects as democracy vs authoritarianism, ex-President Estrada's plunder trial, terrorism and rebel movements, and the 2004 elections.

News accounts most closely monitored by Filipinos last year were those on Estrada's trial, power and water rates, the involvement of American troops in the offensive against Abu Sayyaf, the "Balikatan" exercises, and other terrorist activities here and abroad.

In a scale of 1 to 10, the respondents gave democracy today a 6.7 average rating, up from 4.1 during the Marcos regime.

SWS surveys have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent, and a sampling size of 1,200 voting-age adults.

Confirmed tough

Validating salient points in the SWS review, the yearend report of the think-tank group Ibon Foundation confirmed that last year was a "tough one" for the poor.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo was right when she said the poor and marginalized sectors did not reap the benefits of the reported economic growth," Ibon research director Antonio Tujan Jr. said.

Echoing the SWS, Tujan explained that although the Philippines posted one of the fastest gross domestic product (GDP) growth rates in Southeast Asia, it suffered the biggest unemployment numbers in the region.

He also said the daily cost of living further increased while incomes remained stagnant.

Ibon estimated that a family of six in Metro Manila needed P538.18 a day to live decently. Minimum wage in the National Capital Region is currently pegged at P250 a day.

Tujan said it was worse in the countryside, where a *palay* farmer made only P10.36 daily per hectare, a coconut farmer P4.69 daily per hectare, and a small hog farmer about P15 daily per pig. To live decently, he stressed, the rural family needed at least P403.34 a day.

SWS respondents' perception of crime as country's third gravest problem was also corroborated by the Ibon yearender. *With Agnes Donato*

11 solons to file graft raps vs ex-BIR chief

By Christine O. Avendaño

ELEVEN lawmakers are set to file on Monday a graft case against former Bureau of Internal Revenue chief Rene Bañez and ex-Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno for causing "undue injury" to the government when they allowed P1.18 billion in documentary tax liabilities of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) to be credited to the BIR.

The lawmakers are led by Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. who delivered a privileged speech last August in which he accused Bañez, then BIR commissioner, of economic sabotage and plunder as a result of his alleged ties to the Fort Bonifacio-Metro Pacific-Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. conglomerate.

Saludo said it would be the first time lawmakers filed a case against someone resulting from a privileged speech in the House.

In a phone interview, Saludo said it took time to prepare the case against Bañez because the legislators had to carefully consider the evidence they had against him.

So instead of a plunder charge as they had originally intended, the lawmakers will be charging Bañez with violating Section 3(e) of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act before the Office of the Ombudsman next week, he said.

Saludo said Diokno was included in the case because he approved the Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) that was used by the BIR to pay for the P1.18-billion documentary tax liability of FBDC in February 2001.

Joining Saludo in the complaint are Representatives Rodolfo Albano, Vicente Sandoval, Benasing Macarambon Jr., Rolex Suplico, Gerardo Espina Jr., Oscar Gozos and Augusto Baculio, as well as Deputy Speakers Raul Gonzalez, Gerry Salapuddin and Emilio Espinosa Jr.

In their 23-page complaint, the lawmakers said Bañez and Diokno showed bad faith and gross inexcusable negligence when they allowed the BIR to pay the FBDC's documentary stamp taxes in the sale of a portion of Fort Bonifacio.

Their actions caused "undue injury to the government and unwarranted benefits to FBDC and Metro Pacific Corp. (MPC)," the complaint said.

They said that Bañez "hid or camouflaged the documentary stamp tax liability of FBDC by crediting the amount from the Department of Budget and Management to the BIR, thus showing payment by FBDC of documentary stamp taxes when in fact it did not pay the same."

The lawmakers pointed out that when the SARO was being processed for approval, Bañez was the director for tax services of MPC and FBDC, and when the SARO was credited, he was the BIR chief.

The lawmakers also scored Bañez for failing to appeal an "adverse decision" against the BIR by the Court of Tax Appeals which ruled in December 2001 that the FBDC and MPC be granted a value added tax refund of P15 million.

HOUSING IN CAVITE
President Macapagal Arroyo looks at the map of the housing program for beneficiaries in Bagbag Rosario, Cavite City shown by Cirilo Martinez, president and CEO of PNOC-Development and Management Corp. The occasion is the awarding of housing units and certificates of lot allocation to beneficiaries of the PNOC-DMC's "Abot-Kayang Pabahay Palupa program.

MALACANANG PHOTO

Badoy fined for ambulance ride

By Volt Contreras

THE SUPREME Court has slapped a P13,000 fine on retired Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy for making a bizarre trip in an ambulance to the GMA studios, where he said on live television that a draft ruling on the Estrada plunder case got lost or was stolen.

The fine was also for Badoy's "delayed ruling" on an Estrada pleading that asked his division to let Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy to attend the oathtaking of his mother Luisa "Loi" Ejercito as a newly elected senator.

The issue on the delayed ruling was part of an administrative complaint lodged in November 2001 by Estrada's former lawyers, who included former Senator Rene Saguisag and former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas.

The complaint, which sought his dismissal from the judiciary, had also accused him of dishonesty, misrepresentation, oppression and gross misconduct. Badoy was cleared of all these other charges.

In an en banc decision penned by Justice Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, the high court found Badoy "guilty of conduct unbecoming a Justice" in connection with the "ambulance incident."

On Nov. 29, 2001, Badoy surprised the media and court personnel when he left his office and proceeded to the GMA studios on Edsa. Since he was then feeling ill, he got on an ambulance to take him there.

It turned out that he wanted to give an interview on the news program Saksi regarding the mysterious loss of his draft ruling that was supposed to order Estrada's return to his earlier detention site, Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Badoy was then chair of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division to which the Estrada plunder case was originally raffled.

The high court later created a special division for the ex-president's cases. He reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 last October.

The SC decided to investigate Badoy for the incident after it was "sarcastically" depicted in the press.

Finding no reason why Badoy had to "rush" to the TV station, the high court chided Badoy for "reporting to the whole nation" what should have remained an "internal office incident."

The P13,000 fine is to be deducted from Badoy's retirement benefits.

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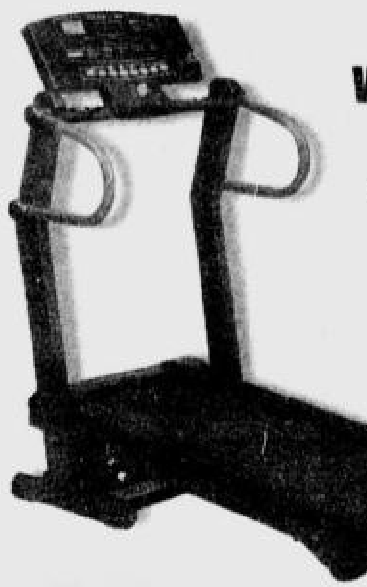

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Reds turn Globe cell site into 'dead spot'

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Heavily armed men identifying themselves as New People's Army rebels torched shortly before midnight Wednesday the facilities of Globe Telecom in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija after the company refused to pay revolutionary taxes, police and Army officials said.

Hours later, it appeared the same group burned the Globe facility at Barangay Mabatang in Abucay, Bataan, according to Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Philippine Army's Northern Luzon Command. This was the second time the facility was burned.

Garcia said Globe maintained the facility in Mabatang although it had become non-serviceable after the NPA burned it in November 2001. The [recent] damage was minimal, he said.

An NPA source called the INQUIRER Wednesday night and said there would be an attack but did not give details.

Senior Supt. Mario San Diego, Tarlac police director, said Globe engineers estimated the damage to the compound at Barangay San Isidro, La Paz, Tarlac at P15 million.

Eight men wearing military jackets and armed with M-16 rifles barged into the compound at 10:20 p.m.

In five minutes, the suspects had poured gasoline on the cabin housing the batteries and telephone relay equipment, set these on fire and fled on foot, San Diego said.

In Nueva Ecija, Senior Supt. Luisito Palmera, provincial police director, said local residents led by barangay chief Narciso Aguilar averted the burning of the Globe compound at Sto. Rosario Old in Zaragoza town.

Call for help

The people rushed to the site after the company guard, identified as Jojit Alviz, called for help.

The residents, Palmera said, "refused to leave the compound even after the suspects fired warning shots."

He said the suspects, also clad in military jackets, fled on foot leaving only two air-conditioners burning.

The incidents occurred about 30 minutes apart. The sites are less than three kilometers from each other. Garcia said the San Isidro compound was some 400 meters from a police station.

Both Garcia and Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, Central Luzon police director, cited extortion as the motive.

Globe might "not have given in to the demands of the rebels," they said.

Wednesday's incidents occurred 13 months after more than 50 armed men, believed to be NPA rebels, torched the facilities of Smart Telephone Co. in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija, Sta. Ignacia town in Tarlac and Rosales in Pangasinan, and that of Globe in Abucay, Bataan, and Piltel in Lubao, Pampanga. They also burned a van owned by Smart at Barangay Tibag in Tarlac City.

Calderon blamed the telecommunications firms for the incidents. He said the companies did "not want to coordinate with the police" and "would not say if they indeed received extortion letters from the rebels."

The companies, he said, also did not beef up their security forces. *Tonette Orejas with reports from Ronaldo Dizon, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Andrade; 82

ROSARIO Andrade y Punzalan, former secretary to the general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), died on Monday at East Avenue Medical Center, Quezon City. She was 82.

She is survived by children Fred and Mila, Melchor and Ching, and Danny; grandchildren Pi and Richie, Tonton, Eman; and great grandchild Alleah Patricia.

Her remains lie at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be held tomorrow at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park at Baesa, Quezon City.

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OPINION

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Unequal burden

EDITORIAL

ACTORS and actresses plan to lead a march to the Senate on Monday to press for the passage of another law exempting them from payment of the 10-percent value-added tax (VAT). Nobody knows whether lawyers, doctors, accountants and other professionals will join them in the "black protest," although they also stand to benefit from another successful lobby by the entertainment industry. But instead of just gawking at the pretty faces in the march, salaried workers and employees should mount a mass action of their own to protest the special treatment these stars and professionals have been getting the last few years and demand that they bear their fair share of the burden of citizenship.

According to the latest official data, professionals and business executives earned P1.17 trillion in 1997, almost double what all salaried workers were paid, which totalled P582.7 billion. The incomes of the two groups must have grown in the intervening years, but finance officials think their respective share of the pie remained the same. Comparing the tax payments made in 2001 against these figures, the Department of Finance concluded that salaried workers have been paying 10.58 percent of their income while professionals and business executives were paying only 1.33 percent. In actual monetary terms, the tax payments of salaried workers amounted to P61.66 billion but those of executives and professionals totalled only P15.4 billion. Put another way, salaried workers paid four times more in taxes than the executives and the professionals who earned twice what they earned.

The distribution of the tax burden is obviously anything but fair and equitable. And the reason is that salaried workers whose income taxes are withheld by their employers, cannot cheat on their payments while professionals are virtually free to declare any income they want and pay only the amounts they please.

Collecting the right taxes from professionals is a cat-and-mouse game that the cat has given up hope of ever winning. Thus, in 1997 the government decided to impose a 10-percent VAT on payments for professional services. But while business executives started paying their VAT in 1998, actors and other entertainers were able to charm lawmakers into passing a law suspending the collection of the VAT on their incomes as well as those of other professionals.

The latest exemption, signed by then President Estrada, expired last Dec. 31. Now the actors and entertainers are demanding a further extension of the exemption. A bill sponsored by Negros Rep. Jules Ledesma (who is married to an actress, incidentally) has already been passed by the House of Representatives, but the Senate has yet to approve it. That is why the "black protest" is being held near the Senate.

Every year that the government passed up the collection of the VAT on professional services, it lost P8.6 billion, according to Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho. That's a lot of revenue forgone at a time when the red ink on the government's accounts was spreading. After running a record deficit of close to P210 billion last year and with the deficit projected to again top P200 billion this year, the government has the obligation to plug every tax loophole and collect the correct taxes from every citizen.

In the last few years, actors, entertainers and professionals enjoyed a tax holiday while the government scrimped on public services and projects for lack of funds. It is time they put in their share. They ought to be ashamed to let low-salaried workers continue to carry the burden of keeping the government running.

Double-game

FOREIGN COMMENT

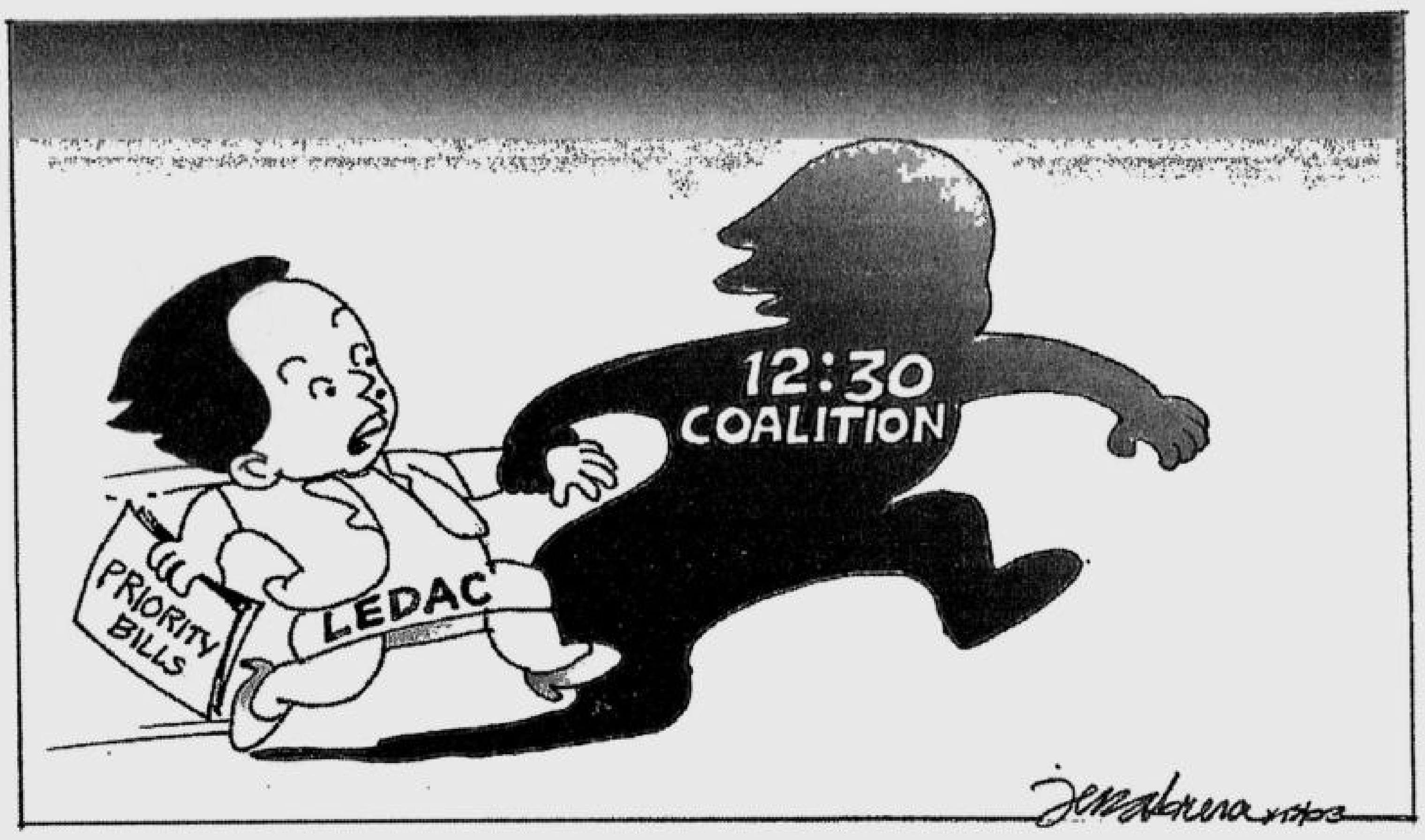
WE might be living in the last weeks before war. Each passing day sees an improvement of the military means necessary for an action against Saddam Hussein.

No one doubts that the forced annexation of Kuwait was a crime that the pacifist community of nations could let go unpunished. There is no similar justification for a second conflict, even if the proliferation of terrifying weapons is a grave and lasting problem.

Until now, French President Jacques Chirac has played a double-game quite skillfully. On the one hand, he has distanced himself from US President George W. Bush by making him bend to UN procedures. On the other, he reassured him of the solidity of the French alliance.

If the UN wants it, war will take place, and it will take place with French participation. Chirac will then have to go against an anti-war-mongering current that he himself encouraged, even if no new fact justifies such a reversal.

Liberation (Paris)



Impsa deal: Is there a gov't guarantee or not?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

INSTEAD of arguing endlessly on who signed what in the controversial Impsa contract, why don't the legal and financial experts just go over the contract and its supplements with a fine-toothed comb to find out if there are any provisions grossly disadvantageous to the government? If there is none, then the signatories need not point accusing fingers at one another. They can say: "Yes I signed it. It's all above board. I stand by my signature."

But the way they are blaming one another, there must be something wrong with it. The way they are washing their hands of any involvement, then it must be a hot potato.

Whoever signed it, if the contract is good for the country and did not unduly benefit anybody, then no harm is done. Then no amount of finger-pointing will discredit anybody. So I don't understand why, if the contract is on the level, everybody is suddenly pointing to one another as if it is too hot to handle.

* * *

Very strange, government spokespersons can't even agree on what line of argument to take. For example, Malacañang and former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez insist that the contract is on the level. But another government agency has a different argument. Read this statement from it:

"The facts are clear.

"On 6 November 1998, the Build-Rehabilitate-Operate-Transfer (BROT) contract in question was signed in Malacañang by Impsa representative Francisco Valenti from Argentina and Napocor Senior Vice President Asisclo Gonzaga with no less than President Estrada himself signing as a witness.

"Now, anybody can tell you that not only was Erap liable as a witness in the contract signing but as the highest official of the land he was liable under the principle of command responsibility.

"Erap gave 'full powers' to then Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu and his three undersecretaries to 'sign, execute and deliver, for and behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, the Government Undertaking in favor of Impsa.' It reads: *'In order to facilitate these investments, we hereby confirm the obligations of NPC...carry the full faith credit of the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic...will see to it that NPC shall be liable to discharge at all times such obligations as they fall due.'*

"Now, what this means for poor Juan de la Cruz is that the government, in case Napocor fails to fulfill its financial obligations, guarantees to pay the debt to Impsa. That's where financial strain on poor Pinoys comes in, the very same financial burden that Erap is trying to blame on President GMA rather than on himself.

"Erap claims that the Arroyo government is the one responsible for the inclusion of provisions in the Impsa contract that are prejudicial to the interests of government. But it can be clearly deduced from the flow of events that the contract in question was signed during his watch."

* * *

That's not how legal experts see it. Let's read the opinion of lawyer Raul J. Palabrica, INQUIRER ombudsman, that was published yesterday:

"Now let's go to the issue of whether the government guaranteed Napocor's obligations in the contract with Impsa. Under our laws, any agreement by a person to assume the obligations of another person in case the latter fails to comply with his commitments must be clear and unequivocal. It cannot be presumed or read between the lines of a contract. The reason is simple: because a guarantee imposes a heavy burden on the guarantor, it is only fair that the assumption of liability and parameters of the assumed obligation are spelled out in unmistakable terms."

That provision in the July 12, 1999 letter of Espiritu cited above, is only a "best efforts" statement, said Palabrica. "There is nothing in the provisions of the contract documents that says that if Napocor fails or reneges on its commitment to Impsa, the government will dig into its already depleted coffers to make good Napocor's unfulfilled obligations. The so-called government guarantee is a big question mark.

"So what happens in case Napocor, knock on wood, runs out of money to pay Impsa's banks? Since Napocor is a corporation with its own charter, its creditors have no choice but to run after whatever assets it owns to satisfy unpaid accounts. If the assets are insufficient, the creditors would just have to accept their losses. That's part of the risks of doing business in this part of the world."

How about the Perez legal opinion of Jan. 24, 2001? That opinion, said Palabrica, only upheld "the validity of the assignment of CBK's receivables form Napocor to the financial leading institutions."

"There is nothing in the Perez opinion that states that the Philippine government has guaranteed the payment of the obligations of Napocor to Impsa or CBK. Like (Justice Secretary Artemio) Tuquero's earlier opinion, the Perez opinion limited itself to stating that all the agreements entered into by Napocor for the power plants are in accordance with Philippine laws."

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Really complicated and difficult to understand, *'di ba*? That's because anything legal is complicated. Lawyers can make the simplest law complex. It is said that a lawyer can make a straight line crooked and a crooked line straight.

To make you understand the Impsa contract better, we have invited former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and anybody else who has a different opinion than him, to next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila to explain some more this head-busting contract.

Best actor in any category

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a fantastic interview of Sean Penn by Larry King last Sunday on CNN. I've always liked Penn not only because of his obvious talents, as anyone who has seen "I am Sam" knows, but because of his not so obvious capacity to take risks. He has portrayed a host of characters, each one different from the other. In many cases for projects that do not offer lucrative financial rewards.

None of that however compares with the risk he took recently to play a role few other American actors, if any, would have dared to take. That was to fly to Iraq last December and stay there for three days. A protester of George Bush's threatened war against Iraq but one "who's tried to keep an open mind on it," he reasoned that he wanted to see for himself whether there was any basis for Bush and Rumsfeld's justifications for that war. Penn's visit has since drawn criticism and insult from American tabloids, many of them calling it an act of betrayal or treason.

Completely serendipitously, I had just told some friends early last week that while Penn's act was daring, it was the sort of thing that was bound to be dismissed by many Americans as fringe, an effort by an actor to act out his fantasies in this fantastic way. That was not at all how Penn came out in "Larry King." And King himself, while maintaining the skepticism to be expected not just from a professional journalist but from a CNN employee, accorded him much respect. Hard not to show it in the face of patent intelligence.

That was how Penn answered the questions, thoughtfully. He wasn't acting at all, or he was playing the biggest role of his life— two ways of saying the same thing. Asked by King what he hoped to accomplish by going there—surely, King said, he did not hope to make discoveries that escaped the notice of the experts—Penn answered that he wanted to bring to the American debate on the war the need for informed public opinion. So far, Washington had maintained a policy of need-to-know on the public itself. That cannot be the basis for an awesome decision fraught with the most monumental, or lethal, consequences.

Of course he wasn't an expert on weapons of mass destruction, he said, but he had read enough about it to know that if Iraq kept those weapons, they could not be hidden from view for very long. Weapons of mass destruction leave residues and other traces, physically and not just through the gossip in the black market. The United States has repeatedly shown its capacity to detect them at home and abroad, he said. If Iraq had those weapons, the US experts would find them. So far, they have not.

Asked by King about what he thought of Donald Rumsfeld's remark that he wasn't bothered at all by Penn's visit to Iraq and that he (Rumsfeld) thought everyone had a right to contribute to the debate on the war, Penn replied that Rumsfeld's actions belied his words. He was bothered by that visit, as indeed by the criticisms hurled against the war by the antiwar movement. Washington's entire reaction in fact had been to silence critics either by depicting them as traitors or, as in the case of artists, by reducing their position to buffoonery.

Didn't he worry his position would be used as propaganda by the Iraqis? Of course, he said. But he was more worried about his silence or inaction being used as propaganda at home. He knew whereof he spoke. As it turned out—you do learn something every day—his father was Leo Penn, the movie director, who got persecuted during the McCarthy period, a political situation not unlike the one that has settled in America after 9/11. The elder Penn lost his job and standing in Hollywood for years until the nightmare ended and McCarthy himself was sent away in shame. But his father, according to Sean, never got bitter from the experience. It taught him only to believe more firmly in the soundness of the American system and the goodness of the American people, both of which had a way of asserting themselves in the end.

As it turned out though, too, at least from where I stood, no spin the Iraqi media could make about his visit would prove more subversive of Bush's and Rumsfeld's stance than the images Penn himself brought home. Images of Iraqi men, women and children going on about their daily life, images of a people who, in Penn's belief, had been mired in great poverty not just by Saddam's cruelty but by American sanctions. A footage of it rolled during the interview and I thought that was one of the more powerful moments there. These were the people, Penn said, who stood to die from America's smart bombs, not Saddam.

I myself have always thought the debate on the war against terror in general was lopsided in one respect. Which is that Bush and Rumsfeld can always point to the faces of those who died in 9/11, courtesy of CNN and other media outfits, but the rest of the world cannot point to the faces of those who died, and continue to die, elsewhere by the American hand, courtesy as well of CNN and other media outfits. More than any argument, those photographs and reels Penn took made the debate a little more real, or balanced. Terror is an abstraction, Arab children are not.

Why did an actor who has always been shy about advertising himself—Penn does not go on promotional tours—decide to invite this kind of attention? Did he not worry, having a wife and kids, about the danger to which he was exposing himself and them? Penn answered: He would have been shyer to see the shame in their eyes if he had not done what he did when something needed to be done. And he risked the danger not in spite of his family but because of them.

Sean Penn will never win an Oscar for it. But for many people across the globe, he's just won best actor of the decade.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Personalistic response to public issues and conflicts

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE LAUNCHING of the Bangon Pilipino Movement at Club Pilipino on Wednesday has been heralded as a multi-sectoral coalition that claims to be the voice of the "silent majority" and that seeks to form a "no-nonsense and broad-based national agenda for reform, unity and progress."

From the declaration of its leading members, representing a number of non-state organizations, one can deduce that BPM relishes the role of an all-seeing watchdog on a wide range of public concerns. To name a few, this coalition is not only framing its own national agenda for reform, independent of the agenda of the presidency and Congress, and is therefore pretending to present an alternative agenda. This coalition has also appointed itself to be a super big brother monitoring the performance of the institutions of state—the presidency, Congress, the courts and the bureaucracy. According to the coalition, its reform agenda includes "undertaking decisive measures to stop smuggling, tax evasion, graft and corruption and other forms of economic plunder."

In short, this voluntaristic coalition places on its shoulders the tasks and responsibilities of the agencies of the state, without the apparatus, the institutions and resources through which the state asserts its powers and autonomy.

A close examination of what this coalition seeks chokes me with indigestion. Stripped of its high-sounding proclamations and aims, this coalition is nothing if not a large collection of do-gooders and whistle-blowers. The coalition is better named as "Omnibus Whistle Blowers Inc." While this group is laudable for its stated objectives, it is biting more than it can swallow.

A scrutiny of the composition of this coalition reveals that it brings together under one umbrella leaders of business, trade unions, academics and a religious leader, all with clashing interests. For example, it's hard to see how Brother Mike Velarde of El Shaddai fits into this conglomeration of interests, given that he has been using the numbers of El Shaddai as a bargaining chip in his own power brokerage activities. One is hard put to see how the people who form this coalition can hammer out a common agenda when the groups they represent have disparate interests.

Name it, this coalition wants to be jack of all trades. Its aspirations include pushing electoral reforms and developing a "culture of patronizing Philippine products and services" in order to generate jobs. The latter objective is a disguise for protectionism. How this coalition, granting its good intentions, can promote its grandiose objectives and where it will get the resources to drive them, boggle the mind.

This coalition has a better chance of success if it trims its goals, focuses its programs and assesses its sources of financing to do all the things it has set out to achieve.

This country never wants of impulses of voluntarism and so-called "crusades" driven by well-meaning citizens or groups of citizens with a messianic complex. The fate of do-good movements is familiar—*ningas cogon*. Their enthusiasm flags after an initial burst of passion and after realizing that it takes more than zeal to reform and change society. The fundamental flaw of voluntarism is that it fails to consider the resources and structures that will enable it to achieve its civic objectives.

However, voluntarism is but one manifestation of the personalistic response of Filipinos to public issues and conflict. The BPM does not channel its effort into institutional structures—like political parties and political institutions. It wrongly believes that whistle-blowing and monitoring the performance of politicians and public institutions are the formula for carrying out reforms.

The BPM is no more and no less than being another manifestation of people power, directed this time not against a sitting government or trying to topple it, but against specific micro-activities of officials and institutions. As such, its attention is not focused. It is diffused—and this is a formula for dissipating energy.

This coalition is a symptom of a worsening erosion of faith among citizens of institutions that make government and democracy work. No state or government can exist without structures and institutions. Instead of reinforcing these institutions that have been undermined by decades of non-ideological and non-policy-based parties, the coalition is setting itself up as a phantom state, whose functionaries are unelected and whose parameters and powers are not defined by law or political practice.

We are not even sure if leading members of this coalition represent only their persons or the corporate objectives of the sectors or organizations they are identified with. Each one of them therefore acts as a judge of what reforms should be like, of whether officials are doing their jobs properly, and of whether the government is pursuing the correct policies.

This coalition was organized against the change of the tide moving toward building institutional, rather than personalistic, relationship. A new political dichotomy has emerged after the withdrawal of President Macapagal-Arroyo from the 2004 elections. This dichotomy is drawn by the clash between the approach of building a coalition between the administration and the opposition, based on an agenda composed of programs, and the approach that accents scandal-mongering as an organizing element in electoral politics. The latter approach seeks to win office not by offering programs but by digging dirt and tarring political rivals with scandals about corruption.

The GMA-Angara coalition is the evidence of the emerging concept of coalition of parties cemented by programs. The Estrada testimony in the Senate exemplifies the counter-tendency of scandal-mongering. The BPM coalition pushes the Edsa tradition to the edge of chaos and unruly government. As such, it trivializes Edsa.

Still hoping

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"WE are jaded veterans of many unrealized dreams, survivors of repeatedly betrayed hopes, and reclaimed former followers of false prophets," was how Mario Taguiwalo described himself and many others present at last Saturday's "12:30 Movement" gathering.

"We have had many leaders made of clay momentarily plated by gold from the reflected glory of our people's heroism and sacrifice. Yet we persevere. We persist. Sometimes we are rewarded."

Just two weeks after the President pointed the way for the nation to go at least for the next 17 months, the promise of a future untainted by partisan concerns already seems to be fading. Once again, pessimism and cynicism have started to poison the atmosphere, the chorus of cynics led by no less than the former President, who poohpoohed both the motives and the meaning of GMA's "sacrifice." And yet, judging from the attendance at the civil society gathering over the weekend—a little over 100 were expected, almost 400 showed up—many still believe it's time to seize the opportunity that the President's announcement offered. And the opportunity is, in Taguiwalo's words, no less the chance for the "nation to open a door for itself."

Addressing the gathering to articulate the aspirations of the well-meaning folk responding to the President's challenge, Taguiwalo sought to harness their energies into a coherent agenda. "(T)he President's priorities of economic recovery, healing the nation and assuring clean and honest elections in 2004, comprise a much better package of goals for the next 17 months compared to other concerns occupying the public's attention," he said.

"It is certainly better than a further barrage of sensational exposés of supposed scandals where the accusers seem just as disgusting as the accused. The President's priorities are more useful to our daily lives than more declarations of candidacies and announcements of factional alignments that our political parties have in store for us. It is definitely more beneficial and less dangerous than the constitutional change through constituent assembly being pushed by honorable members of the House of Representatives. It is much more likely to yield greater value to our overall national progress compared to the unrelenting pursuit of armed struggle or urban insurrection still being prosecuted by surviving patriots of a past era."

* * *

BUT by adopting the three priorities set by the President in her Dec. 30 speech, are citizens' groups necessarily "buying into" the administration's agenda?

Taguiwalo believes the community of organized citizens' groups can bring "our own unique slant to each of these...priorities."

While economic recovery is a goal shared by almost all Filipinos, Taguiwalo says the economic participation of ordinary Filipinos can best be encouraged through micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives, through housing "which, after education, is the most important investment of the average Filipino family," and through private investments in agriculture. "We would like to see a balance in the emphasis on big business and foreign investment by giving attention to connecting with the ingenuity and drive of the enterprising Filipino."

Seeking to "heal the divisions of our nation" should begin by focusing on "structural sources of those divisions so that the underlying drivers of conflicts are reduced beyond efforts to gloss over social strife through charity, patronage or public relations." As for clean and honest elections, it obviously must begin with a "competent and credible" Commission on Elections, as well as "social institutions like the media" to assume a more active role in protecting the integrity of our elections.

* * *

TAGUIWALO raises an interesting point regarding the broader "political" implications of successfully pursuing these priorities.

Such success, he said, "may actually be an excellent platform for securing for our country the blessings of good leadership backed by a solid electoral mandate in 2004."

Taguiwalo points out: "Broadly shared benefits from an economic recovery will go a long way to moderate the desperation of the Filipino electorate and allow for more sane choices in the ballot. Reducing the intensity of divisive conflicts will allow real issues to surface for real constituencies to decide. These advances could reduce opportunities for vested interests to exploit our people's weaknesses and subvert the common good. And clean and honest elections will deliver the rest of our desired outcomes."

Of course, no one believes we can throw off the weight of decades of corruption, misplaced priorities, economic and social inequities, and a bankrupt political system in just 17 months or by a simple declaration, even if by the President.

But if, because of our cynicism and disillusionment, we reject this opportunity to initiate change, then we may have lost our right in the future to blame government and everyone else for the state in which we find our country.

* * *

COMMENTATORS have even derided President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for what they perceive as her premature declaration of political disinterest, which has turned her into that most dreaded of creatures, the lame duck.

But if we accept the wisdom of that perception, then it could mean that we are nothing more than a "lame duck" nation, unable, because of historical, social and psychological inertia, to let go of the past and grasp at opportunities for renewal and transformation.

Even the jaded, the betrayed and the wounded—maybe especially them—are capable of hoping and dreaming. And as they say, there's nothing wrong with dreaming, we can all do it for free.

Marriages

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

CONSERVATIVE people are scandalized when they overhear me (an ex-monk) advising young couples planning their wedding to simplify their lives by eloping. Weddings are a big business these days—from wedding coordinators, to flower arrangements, to wedding garments and of course, the hotel reception that follows the church wedding. Why not be practical and just get married quietly somewhere without much fuss and just send out notice that you got married? This way, you can choose close friends and relatives to accompany you to church instead of a cast of thousands who are imposed on you by parents. Most important, for the price of the reception or even the designer wedding gown that will only be worn once and kept in a *baul* with moth balls forever, the couple can go on a European honeymoon or a romantic cruise in Alaska. I guess people have different priorities, different ways of doing things.

Couples trying to trim their guest list often get in trouble with parents who presume they will lose face if their *kumpares* and *amigas* are not invited. I often think haggling over the guest list is one of the last strands of parental control over a couple that are seen to be independent after marriage. It is one thing for parents to object to the guestlist and another to object to the marriage. Parental objections to marriage in the late 19th-century Philippines have interested me over the years. First, there are muted references to this in the lives of our heroes. Rizal's sister Soledad married someone the family didn't approve of and suffered for it. Secondly, there must be a lot of records on this topic in the Philippine National Archives and the Archives of the Archdiocese of Manila waiting to be brought to light by a historian who will take the trouble to ferret them out. In the January 1932 issue of the Philippine Magazine, I came across the article "Old Marriage Customs in the Philippines" by L. Gonzalez Liquete, translated from the original Spanish by Leo Fischer. Thinking it would contain quaint superstitions and traditions that I could use for an article on June brides, I photocopied it. Ten years later I read it and was pleasantly surprised to find out that it dealt with a case of parental objection to a marriage in Porac, Pampanga in 1850. It is unfortunate that all the names of the principal actors in this drama were hidden under initials since they were socially prominent in Pampanga.

In September 1850 Maria (not her real name) went to Guagua to attend the town fiesta. She arrived in a cart and proceeded to the town plaza to watch the *komedya* with her sister-in-law. While they were at the *komedya* a man identified as B and another called IT, tried to take the cart from the driver. The driver resisted and put up a fight. During the commotion, Maria and her sister-in-law were sheltered in the house of a friend. To cut a long story short, Maria was persuaded to take a boat from Guagua to Porac by B and IT who instead brought her to Tondo. Maria was reported missing for three days and IT was charged with kidnapping. There are two versions of this story—first that Maria was taken against her will, that she refused the food offered her along the way and that she was hostile to her abductors who threatened her into submission. The other story is that Maria willingly went with IT and requested him to keep her away from her father. Some weeks later Maria presented herself, alone, to Governor-General Antonio de Urbiztondo, stating that: her father ill-treated her and that upon the death of her mother entrusted her to an aunt, in effect, deserting her. She was a minor, then 19 years old, and wished to marry IT, a 20-year-old Chinese *mestizo* who moved to Binondo in 1848. IT was further described by Maria's father as:

"...A disorderly man, without known occupation; that being a native and resident...of Bacolor, he left there and registered in the pueblo of Binondo in order to evade military service; that I said without known occupation because if he is a farmer, there are no lands for farming in Binondo."

Much correspondence was exchanged and the intriguing part of Maria's petition to the governor-general reads:

"...Since my honor is already compromised, can I marry another or remain unattached without danger of resuming my relations with IT and secretly becoming his concubine and the mother of illegitimate offspring? If my future husband's situation and condition were altogether unequal from mine, my father's opposition might still be considered rational. But there's nothing of the kind... My future husband is a hard-working, diligent young man who earns his living with the sweat of his brow and has no vice, therefore he will be a good husband and father... I pray Your excellency to authorize our marriage... that I be released from this confinement and from the repeated vexatious suggestions of aforesaid father and may take care of my health, as I am a sufferer from colics and am low in spirits."

Maria was eventually returned to her father and she rejected IT. Was this a case of parental objection or was IT, who was arrested and imprisoned, trying to get away from rape and kidnapping charges by claiming Maria was his fiancée? History can sound so strangely contemporary and can be mined for *telenovelas*.

* * * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Name bane

HIGH BLOOD

Mart R. del Rosario

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —**Ed.**

TOURISM Secretary Dick Gordon is proposing the change of the name of our foremost park from Luneta to Bagumbayan. He says the name Luneta is a loser. It does not reflect who we are and, in any case, it has no grounding either in our history or our heritage and culture.

Gordon's view jibes squarely with the view of my favorite jawing partner, my friend and neighbor Damian.

Damian is a lawyer with a diminishing number of clients ("Because I'm selective, I don't pick up just any client"). I believe he has just one client left, a certain Roxas who is laying claim to the vast tracts of land lying east of Edsa and straddling entire towns and cities stretching all the way to the foothills of the Sierra Madre.

Damian is into social science lately, which he defines as the in-depth study of the problem: Why are Filipinos losers? Why are we poor, and why can't we seem to get off being poor?

"So what have you learned from your study? Why are Filipinos losers?" I ask Damian one fine morning.

"It's because of our names. Lady Luck could not give us good fortune because she's confused as to who we are. She's even unsure if we belong to this part of the world," Damian says.

"How's that?" I ask frankly confused.

"We are in Asia, right? So why aren't we showing to all the world we are Asians beginning with our names? China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, all our neighbors have Asian names. Philippines? *Ano 'yan*? So phony and only recalls our colonial past. The name does not even recall an age of greatness, a defining moment in our past as a people. The name only serves to honor a third-rate, born-loser European monarch!"

"*Oo nga ano?*" I say. "So what do you suggest we name our country?"

"Maynila, maybe, that's the seed of our nationhood. From Maynila radiated the Christianization march that led to the establishment of unified communities which collectively became our nation. I don't know, the historians can get together and decide what's the most appropriate name for our country in the context of history."

Damian is completely taken over by the far-reaching implication of his theory.

"Let's talk about the names of individuals," he continues.

"Mention," he says, "Thong Van Thieu and you know he is a Vietnamese. Yang Chou Ming and he's definitely Chinese. Harako Sakagawa, Japanese; Shin Dok Pak, Korean; Mahatir Tun, Malaysian; Sumakarno Hata, Indonesian. What about Pedro Reyes? Roberto Gamboa? Carlitos Villanueva? Apolonio Abella? Filipinos *ba 'yan*? They could be Mexican, Peruvian, Cuban or any of a slew of Latin American nationals!" Damian booms.

"So what do you suggest?" I ask suddenly intrigued by Damian's theory.

"Let's all change our names into something that's native of this land."

"*Di ba madugo 'yan?*" I ask.

"No! We are used to changing names. We change the names of streets, we change the names of people, we change names at the drop of a hat. One guy I know uses different sets of names every time he stays in a motel."

I am still skeptical.

"Believe you me, there'll be no problem," Damian insists. The trick is, in changing names keep them phonetically close to the original so that recall can be preserved and will not be lost."

"Example? " I ask.

"Example, Roberto Gamboa, Bato Gagamba seem appropriate. Change Apolonio Abella to Punong Abala. Martin del Rosario to Matinik D. Imik."

"Hey, this is fun," I enthuse. "Can you think up of native names our politicians and public personalities can change their names to?"

"Well, let's start with Franklin Drilon, that name can be changed to Acting Dagol. Jose de Venecia to Walang Binesa. Felicito Payumo might suggest to Dick Gordon to change his name to Dika Ganda. To which Gordon might counter-suggest Lalo Kana."

"Cool! Cool!" I gush. "Any more?"

"Well for Fernando Poe Jr. *di ba* he's best known as Da King? So I would change my name if I were him to 'Da Ting Daan'."

"That sounds more apt for Brother Ely Soriano than FPJ, I observe."

"Yeah, but what recall! FPJ will be unbeatable at the polls if he runs for any office with that monicker," Damian says.

"How about Loren Legarda-Leviste?" I ask.

"That's a no-brainer. She can change her name to Leronleronsinta Makyat-Sapapaya. *Talagang* folksy *ang* dating."

"I wonder what name change would be appropriate for Nani Perez in light of unfolding developments," I say.

"Well, Ani is a Tagalog word for harvest. He can call himself Ani instead of Nani," Damian opines.

"Ani what?"

"And Pinaalis. Phonetically close to his present monicker, *di ba*?"

I am completely fascinated by the many possibilities of Damian's ground-breaking proposal.

"What about Juan Flavier? He's now being touted as a presidential timber. What name change can you suggest for him?" I ask

"Juan...Juan...Isa, that's it, Juan sounds like One or Isa in our native tongue. Flavier can rename himself Isang Palaboy."

"How about our low-profile Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo?" I ask.

"Again, a no-brainer. He can change his name to Beto-beto D. Magulo," Damian recommends.

"Beto-beto? Isn't that a kind of numbers game played in towns and barrios during fiestas?"

"Well, yeah but what the heck, it sounds good and fits the humble personality of the executive secretary."

I decide to end my morning chat with Damian before he completely ruins my day. But not before I ask him for a final suggestion, a *huling hirit*.

"How about Mike Arroyo? What native name can you suggest for him?"

Damian is creative up to the last.

"How about Makbigat Aruykupo?"

Mart R. del Rosario is the president of MRR Associates Inc.

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Those irritating escorted VIP convoys

MANY times now I have gotten angry at government officials who drive in convoys on our traffic-ridden streets and all but kick out of the way vehicles that cross their paths. No government official can justify to me that he has the right to barge into my lane, expect that I should give way and let him cause more congestion in the already jammed roads of Metro Manila. Having escorts may be part of being a "Very Important Person" but who in this country is not in a hurry to get where he is going?

Last Sunday, I was on my way to the Rockwell Center and was driving on the almost empty Buendia Avenue. Despite the absence of traffic, a convoy consisting of two police motorcycles escorting one dark blue Nissan Patrol with a government plate, was going against the traffic. I was calmly driving on the first lane and this convoy was heading toward me. I didn't budge! I waved to the convoy to get back to its lane as its escorts were waving to me to give way. They were very arrogant. I think it is the "VIP" mentality that is creating this and not the necessity for an official to get safely from one place to another.

Last Dec. 18, the convoy of Secretary Marita Jimenez hit Angelyn Francisco. Francisco was hospitalized and guess who paid the bill? No one else but Mr. Juan de la Cruz! Despite the reckless imprudence committed by the convoy, Jimenez could say, "I should not pay for that. It happened when I was on official duty."

I call on all government officials to be extra considerate. It is not the citizenry's fault that we have such a humongous traffic problem. It is due to the complacency of previous administrations that we are still in this mess. We pay our taxes but they are not used to build more roads. Instead of creating more traffic headaches, let's do something speedy to reduce the traffic problem of this country. If you have a busy schedule, work early and manage your time well like the rest of us do.

—NOEL CARPIO,
1 Molave St., Ramax Subd.,
Quezon City 1100

Politics complicates Piatco controversy

IF there is anything that the full-page ad of the MIA-Naia Association of Service Operators proves, it is that the construction of Terminal 3 has become a partisan political issue. Even President Macapagal-Arroyo, who declared the contract null and void, admitted that her decision brought her more enemies.

Sen. Joker Arroyo wants to blame former Transportation Secretaries Arturo Enrile (who is already dead) and Vicente Rivera (who is ill in the United States) for the controversy, but they cannot answer him back. The senator wants us to believe that the contract between the government and Piatco was flawed from the start "because of the BOT law's prohibition against direct government guarantees for projects arising from unsolicited proposals."

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara disagrees with such a narrow interpretation. He said there was no sovereign guarantee for loan payments in the contract but a provision providing for a government takeover in the event Piatco fails to pay its senior lenders. In that case, the government may choose another operator who will then assume the unpaid loans. So where is the government guarantee?

It's about time the Maso, using its close association with the powers-that-be, stopped using partisan politics to suit its narrow self-interest and to disengage from a position that impedes national economic development.

—RIZZA CORTEZ, 45 Maligaya St.,
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

What are your thoughts on Charter change?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

YES to some changes but not as proposed by JDV. What will benefit the country is to grant autonomy to the different regions in the country.

1. Senators must have a provincial or state constituency and they must be elected in local elections, not national. They must represent a province or state.

2. The provinces or states must have their own constitution and real autonomy so they can decide what is best for their region. They must be allowed to decide if they will allow 100-percent foreign ownership of corporations.

They must be allowed to negotiate directly with investors rather than through a centralized Department of Trade and Industry, although the national government must maintain a foreign trade and tourism group whose sole purpose is to promote the country overseas but not enter into any agreements. Agreements must be entered into by the states solely.

3. Abolish the PNP. Law enforcement must be given to the state and local governments. Only dictatorial nations require a national police with all the stupid generals running around in the business of drug trafficking and criminal activities and involvement in politics.

4. Eliminate the party list as it is nothing but a resistance to any development of the country and it doesn't do anything but promote communist principles.—**Carlos**

* * *

Let foreign companies come to the Philippines with the constitutional assurance of 100-percent ownership. They'll get 100-percent opportunity to make a profit as well as 100-percent risk of the losses. The bureaucrats, politicians, judges will get nothing as there will be no more protectionism—the present constitutional instrument in promoting all these.—**Yinamiran**

* * *

Federalism doesn't fit the Philippines. Our local politics has a strong tendency toward warlordism and dynasties. Central government corruption will just become localized and more intense. Besides, even in federal states, development is not equally distributed. In the United States, development is concentrated in certain states like California and New York. Under our present system of government, local leaders already have the power and duty to promote development and maintain peace and order but most of them still fail to deliver. There is no assurance that once we turn to federalism, local leaders will suddenly transform into efficient and effective leaders.—**conway**

* * *

I highly suspect the motives of these people in recommending a change in government. It seems to me that these people are trying to perpetuate their political careers. The fixed term limits that these people got are not enough for them to steal from the people. They need more time.—**anakaraw**

* * *

We could end up with a government where the prime minister may be changed at the drop of a hat just like the way the Senate president is toppled now and then.

The attitude of the senators is in itself a mirror of things to come with a parliamentary system of government in the Philippines. Have you seen any good thing coming from the work of the senators these days? Nothing! They are only good in shielding their own kind of corrupt and criminally suspected members and in white washing the inefficiency and corrupt practices of their favorite President of the country.—**mcamello**

* * *

In a parliamentary system of government, another Edsa uprising need not ever happen again. All we need is a "vote of no confidence" and a new election will be held right away.

That's all well and good... in theory at least. But factor in the fact that De Venecia could be our next head of state in a parliamentary form of government—he who never had a chance to win a presidential election—then all logic fails.—**dondie**

* * *

It's really a big problem choosing either retaining the present form of government or shifting to a parliamentary system. Why? Because both have obvious inherent defects that will not work or suit the kind of political mentality that both the political leaders and the common people have.

Basically, the problem lies in the people for being politically immature and irresponsible in using their God-given right to choose the right persons to represent them in government. What should be done is to find the right combination that will build a government structure that suits the character (flaws included), the nature and culture of the Filipinos. It's so frustrating just looking at the unworkable options that sometimes, I wonder if what we need is a "benevolent dictator" who could make all of us toe the line and put things in order.—**cesdlrey**

* * *

I agree that there is a need to change the Charter, but to do it now by converting both houses into a constituent assembly would be premature. When Congressman Gonzalez said that they already had conducted a nationwide survey and alleged that the people clamored for Charter change, that is indeed an assumption. Who were the people they surveyed? How did they do it? Magic? Granting that the people clamored for it, did they also check how soon they would want this?

Changing the Charter now would only make us think: Who gets to benefit from it in the end? The poor? The OFWs? For sure it will only benefit those senators and congressmen whose terms are about to end! We, the Filipinos here in Texas, have talked about this plan and we are not in favor of this move in Congress!—**rsanguyo**

* * *

I'll be the first one to agree that we need a different form of government, one that will bring civility in our politics and one that will improve and open up the processes of true democracy. If constitutional reform is necessary to achieve these goals, then so be it. But, make no mistake, we can't let the current politicians in Congress define the terms and limits of our resolve.—**milao**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Messages

I, on behalf of the Quezon City government, extend my heartfelt greetings and congratulations to administrative and medical staff of the UNITED DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER on the occasion of your 28th anniversary.

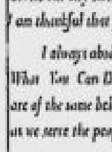
Through all the scientific and technological breakthroughs of the 21 century, our health remains a topmost priority. I am proud that the UDMC continues to be a source of outstanding medical service that is complementary with today's modern world.

We share the same goal of providing the greatest good to the most number of city constituents, most especially the underserved sector. As our city strives to be at par with other cities around the globe, I am thankful that you remain our partner all throughout.

I always abide by the adage, "Think Not of Yourself but of What You Can Do to Help Others in Need". I am confident we are of the same belief ... a belief that has been our guiding principle as we serve the people.

On your 28 year as one of the best provider in medicine, I take my hat off to you!

Feliciano Belmonte, Jr.
City Mayor



Pride and joy marches the 28th anniversary celebration of United Doctors Medical Center. UDMC has so far achieved to be one of the trusted institutions and a major partner in providing medical care. Its continued existence and greater achievement are products of a balanced healthcare program and Christian values anchored towards a commitment to social responsibilities.

This year, as we mark our 28th anniversary with a theme [illegible] and healthcare in 2003, [illegible] congratulate the men and women who rally behind our [illegible] and proudly appreciate their dedication to their work and determination to make the victory it has today.

We assure the public for UDMC's continued commitment to provide quality medical care at a socialized cost.

[illegible]
Chairman of the Board

TO ALL MEMBERS OF UDMC FAMILY,
Congratulations on our 28th Anniversary.
We Deserved to celebrate it, for people, not brick, mortar nor technology, make the hospital

Delfin J. Fo,
President

The mark of an additional year to an entity [illegible] the United Medical Doctors Center is a legacy we collectively nurtured [illegible] effort in catering hospital [illegible] a formula of social responsibility has propelled us into a continuing success as an institution. And our success has endeared us to be the pioneer in medical service at a socialized cost.

As we astoundingly mark our 28th Anniversary, let me send UDMC's way in aiming high with excellent service for the years ahead. It will strive to be a responsible corporate citizen and essential contributor to prosperity.

My gratitude to our business partners, medical practitioners, line officers and staff without whom our goal can not be achieved to the fullest.

Godspeed!

Edgar [illegible]
General Manager / Treasurer

United Doctors Medical Center

Celebrating 28 Years of Aiming High Towards Excellent Service and Healthcare in 2003

13 Cornerstones of Winning Achievements and Prosperous Existence

13 The prize of fortitude made UDMC a strong institution conservative to the needs and concern of each patients

12 The consolidation and coordination of various departments and committees addressed the growing concern in uplifting the patient-hospital standard of care.

11 The changes in political climate with influx to economic viability have not prevented UDMC to maintain status quo in the cost of its medical services. It remained committed to its objective of socialized cost of efficient healthcare.

10 The amiable attitude of employees and medical practitioners at itsDiagnostics-Centers have earned UDMC the fortitude of entertaining queues of patients being referred by other hospitals starting from the wee hour of the morning until midnight.

9 UDMC received commendations and awards as being No.1 in the field of Radiology.

8 More than 300 men and women are rendering utmost services to UDMC clients and they all acting as one family.

7 Commited to social responsibilities, UDMC continuously conduct medical missions even at far-reached area like Boso-boso, Batangas, Pakil, Laguna, Antipolo and others.

6 State of the art equipment in the fields of Hemodialysis,CT-Scan, Ultrasound, Endoscopy and Laparoscopy have earned UDMC a laudable reputation as an institution in healthcare and invited the engagement of caravans of well known medical practitioners.

5 In 1996, with the introduction of modern hospital facilities around the world, UDMC has joined other hospitals in offering CT-Scan Procedure.

4 In 1990, under a new management, UDMC has offered all or substantially all of its diagnostic services at a socialized cost. which earmarked the hospital as the pioneer in socialized medical treatment

3 Its Board of Directors conceived the idea of organizing a private School of Nursing allowing the students to use its facilities for advanced healthcare as well as the acquisition of knowledge and technological skills.

2 Well-staffed and progressive, the hospital gives complete diagnostic and treatment facilities to all segments of the community.

1 In 1975, United Doctors Medical Center was established as the largest private Hospital in Quezon City. This well equipped hospital occupies a city bloc at the boundary of two big cities, Quezon City and Manila.

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Balloons for Charity
Anniversary Baby
Singing Contest
January 17, 2003
Parlor Games
Inter-Departmental
Case Presentation
Fellowship Night

Reports intensify about Saddam exile

CAIRO, Egypt—Libya, Mauritania, Egypt, Belarus, Cuba or North Korea—could one become Saddam Hussein's next home?

Arab diplomats say the idea—which has not been publicly confirmed—has been presented to Saddam as a way out not only for him and his family, but also for his people, suffering for 12 years under punishing UN sanctions.

But denials have come as quickly as new countries are raised, and many experts say they do not believe Saddam will leave Iraq.

The United States has threatened war to topple Saddam, whom it accuses of hiding nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters in Washington this week that, "it would be a good idea if (Saddam) took the opportunity to leave."

Arab leaders have tried before to lure Saddam into exile. In 1991, Egypt offered Saddam a haven to avert the Gulf War; he declined.

Some analysts believe there's not enough pressure on the Iraqi leader to force him to consider such an option now. The Americans may have him in their gun sights, but the bombs have not started falling and there is no collective Arab and Western support for military action against him.

Arab leaders are urging the United States to give them one more opportunity to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"At least give us a chance," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud told NBC television on Monday. "If in the final analysis we don't succeed, those who are working for war can have their war as they please, which is going to be a catastrophe for the region."

Saddam would have to be given guarantees he will not face a fate like that of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who is on trial on war crimes charges. Thousands of Iraqis have been slaughtered since Saddam came to power in 1979 and the Iraqi leader could face calls for retribution.

Moreover, Saddam might worry about vulnerability to assassination or extradition if he leaves Iraq. *AP*

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King's widow speaks out against war

DR. MARTIN Luther King in his last public appearance at the Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn., on April 3, 1968. AP

ATLANTA—The widow of Martin Luther King Jr. spoke out on Tuesday against a possible US-led war on Iraq, evoking the assassinated US civil rights leader's message of nonviolence.

"I believe that more people are thinking about him and yearning to hear his voice because of concerns about terrorism and the buildup of war," Coretta Scott King told Reuters.

King said there were alternative means to possible war with Iraq, such as negotiation.

"When you use war as a way of settling disputes, you only cause more war," she said in an interview given to highlight the observance of the King holiday on Monday. "In the long run, the only way to have peace is to use peaceful means."

Martin Luther King Jr. advocated passive resistance to racial segregation and co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as a base for nonviolent marches and civil rights demonstrations for US blacks. He was killed in April 1968.

Coretta Scott King said one of the reasons her husband was assassinated was because of his opposition to the Vietnam War.

She said King initially feared that if he took a stand against that war, fund-raising for his group would dry up.

But she said that after King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, he felt compelled to work to bring about international peace.

"He proved to be right," she said. After his anti-Vietnam War speech in 1967, "the nation within a year's time reversed itself on Vietnam and Martin lived to know that his courageous statement was not in vain." *Reuters*

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Taking to the streets for peace

WASHINGTON—Hundreds of thousands of activists from around the United States are to descend on the capital city this weekend to voice their opposition to threatened military action against Iraq.

The demonstration, highlighted by a rally at the Capitol and march to a nearby military installation on Saturday, will be supported by parallel demonstrations in San Francisco and 18 countries, including Egypt, Mexico, Spain, Argentina, and Britain.

Tony Murphy, spokesman for organizers "Act Now to Stop War and End Racism," or ANSWER, said the coalition wants to show broad-based objection to a war.

"We believe that the vast majority of people in the United States don't want a war, they want money spent on education and human needs and not weapons of mass destruction," he said.

Murphy said the United States is gearing up for military action "at break-neck speed," instead of allowing UN weapons inspectors finish their work.

"We believe the Bush administration is lying when it says it is concerned about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and it is in fact concerned about the 100 billion barrels of oil in Iraq," he said, adding that the administration "fears the emergence of a large, powerful anti-war movement." "The Bush administration is trying to outpace the anti-war movement," he said.

But Jane Carr, spokeswoman for Peace Action, which claims 85,000 members across the United States, said "the peace movement has geared up. Nothing, except peace itself, will stop it." Experts said that a peace movement of such size, prior to the start of a war, is unprecedented. *AFP*

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Class 1:	**Cars/Pick-ups/Sport Utility Vans**	**Php.**	**18.00**
Class 2:	**Buses/Light Trucks: 2 axles**	**Php.**	**44.00**
Class 3:	**Heavy Trucks/Trailers; 3 or more axles**	**Php.**	**53.00**

This notice is pursuant to TRB Board Resolution No. 2004-43 and 4.2.2 of the Toll Operation Agreement which requires publication of toll rates to be charged on said toll road in a newspaper of general publication at least once a week for three consecutive weeks.

Any interested Expressway user shall have the right to file within a period of ninety (90) days after the publication of this Notice, a petition with TRB at the 2nd Floor, IBP Building, Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City for a review of the toll rates. (PD 1894)

SO ORDERED. November 30, 2002 by Authority of the Board.

(SDG) **JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.**
Executive Director
Toll Regulatory Board

North Korea scorns US offer of aid, talks

SEOUL/BEIJING—North Korea poured cold water on Wednesday on US offers of aid once suspicions about the communist state's nuclear intentions were cleared, saying Washington was trying to trick Pyongyang into disarming.

As capitals around Asia buzzed with diplomatic efforts to calm the Korean peninsula, North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused Washington of bad faith and insisted a non-aggression pact was the only way to defuse the nuclear crisis.

"The US loudmouthed supply of energy and food aid are like a painted cake pie in the sky as they are possible only after the DPRK (North Korea) is totally disarmed," said the statement, issued late at night by the official Korean Central News Agency.

"It is clear that the US talk about dialogue is nothing but a deceptive drama to mislead the world public opinion," the ministry said.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer dismissed the statement as unhelpful bluster.

"We still have not received any official word from North Korea. That's an additional unfortunate statement that North Korea has made. This is why Japan, China, South Korea, Russia and the United States view this matter as a matter of serious concern," Fleischer told reporters.

Nuclear treaty

Washington accuses Pyongyang of covertly developing nuclear weapons, a charge the Foreign Ministry spokesperson again denied Wednesday. The crisis came to a head Saturday when North Korea pulled out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On Capitol Hill, US Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota complained on Wednesday about what he called an ever-changing US policy.

"I think it is important that we engage the North Koreans," he said. "But this flip-flopping and this change in position from one day to the next sends a very conflicting and confusing message not only to the North Koreans, but to the international community."

Earlier Wednesday, China and the United States held talks in Beijing, and Japan and South Korea met in Seoul, working to build on Washington's offer to revive a program to give Pyongyang food and energy if it dropped its nuclear ambitions.

In Beijing, US Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly faced pressure from China—North Korea's neighbor and main ally—to hold direct talks with Pyongyang, as demanded by the North, as soon as possible, diplomats said. China has offered to host such talks.

Special envoy

Russia said it planned to send a special envoy to Pyongyang, Beijing and Washington to help find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said after talks in Moscow he was optimistic diplomatic efforts in several capitals, including the Russian mission, would soon ease tensions.

There was no official comment on the Beijing discussions between Kelly and Vice Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and other Chinese officials, but Kelly told reporters beforehand they would discuss Sino-US issues and problems related to North Korea. "There's no substitute for communication," Kelly said.

Kelly was expected to ask Beijing, which provides grain and oil to North Korea at special prices, to put more pressure on Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions and avoid provocative moves such as missile testing, analysts said.

In the strongest sign the White House had dropped a ban on incentives to resolve the issue, President George W. Bush said Tuesday he might revive his administration's one-time effort to aid North Korea if it abandoned its nuclear program.

But North Korea said it had examined the US offers and found that "in essence, there is no change in the US conditional stand that it would have dialogue with the DPRK only after it scraps its 'nuclear program'.

"We have already clarified the DPRK is ready to solve the nuclear issue through negotiations on condition that the US recognizes the DPRK's sovereignty, assures it of non-aggression and does not obstruct its economic development." Washington insists it will not offer Pyongyang concessions or inducements to scrap its nuclear program, but has said it wants to resolve the confrontation through diplomacy, not war.

Bush administration officials' offer of talks but no negotiations "prove that they seek to gain time for some other purpose and, therefore, resort to false propaganda to fool the DPRK and the world public," the spokesperson said.

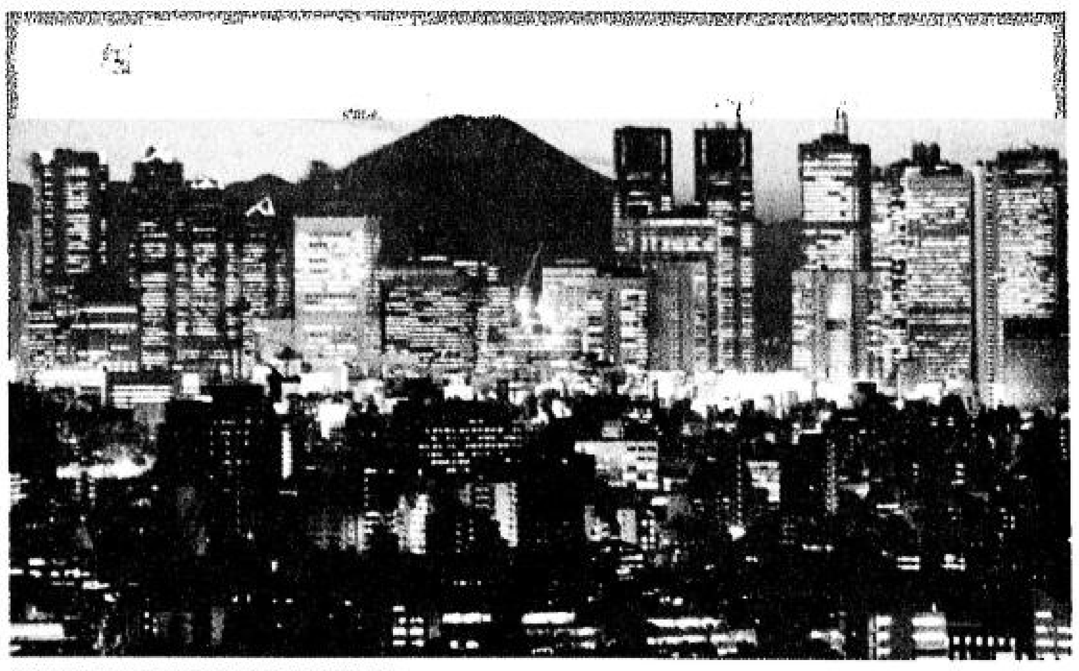
Missile tests

Last week, Pyongyang threatened to resume missile tests and vowed to destroy the United States in "a sea of fire." Pyongyang has issued a barrage of anti-American rhetoric in recent weeks. Earlier Wednesday it blamed Washington for nuclear proliferation and said it should disarm first.

The apparent softening of Washington's position came after weeks of rising tension during the Bush administration's preparations for the possibility of disarming Iraq by force.

South Korean President-elect Roh Moo-hyun, who has pursued a careful approach toward ending the crisis, visited US troops and said Pyongyang must not be allowed nuclear arms.

Diplomats from Australia, one of the few Western countries with diplomatic ties with Pyongyang, are visiting North Korea. *Reuters*



WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE REUTERS

Skyscrapers in Tokyo's Shinjuku district frame Mt. Fuji in this Dec. 11, 2002 file photo. The Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka have retained their respective first and second-place rankings as the most expensive in the world, a new survey has found.

Bush says school's affirmative action program unconstitutional

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush, stepping into a major US affirmative action case, asserted Wednesday that a program of racial preferences for minority applicants at the University of Michigan was "fundamentally flawed" and unconstitutional.

The program "amounts to a quota system that unfairly rewards or penalizes prospective students solely on their race," Bush said in announcing that his administration would file a legal brief in the case with the Supreme Court on Thursday.

The administration's brief will narrowly apply to the Michigan program, officials said.

Bush's move drew strong criticism from civil rights groups, and Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle called it "a watershed moment for the administration." Before the announcement he said, "They have to decide whether they're for civil rights and diversity or not."

"I strongly support diversity of all kinds, including racial diversity in higher education," Bush said. But he added, "The method used by the University of Michigan to achieve this goal is fundamentally flawed."

He said that some students at the university are selected or rejected on the color of their skin. "The motivation for this administration policy may be very good, but the result is discrimination. And that discrimination is very wrong," Bush said.

He spoke in the Roosevelt Room of the White House and declined to take questions.

Bush said that "racial prejudice is a reality in our country" but that, in trying to fix the problem, "we must not use means that create another wrong."

The president said Americans should not be satisfied with the current numbers of minorities on college campuses.

"Our government must work to make college more affordable for students who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and because we're committed to racial justice, we must make sure that America's public schools offer a quality education to every child from every background," Bush said.

The politically charged issue forced the president to balance the desires of his conservative backers, who staunchly oppose affirmative action, against the potential reaction from the broader electorate if he is viewed as being racially insensitive.

Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri, a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School who says he'll seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004, plans to file a brief in support of the university's program.

"I believe affirmative action is an essential tool in expanding educational opportunities to minorities," he said. *AP*

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0037 Series of 2003

Rebels in Congo accused of cannibalism, rape

KINSHASA—Cannibalism, systematic rape, torture and kidnapping were used as weapons by rebels during recent fighting in remote areas of Congo inhabited by Pygmies, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

"They cut out the hearts and other organs of their victims and forced families to eat them . . . One little girl was executed, cut into little pieces and then eaten," a UN spokesperson said of the findings of an investigation into atrocities in northeastern Congo's jungles.

"These armed groups are composed of freaks and these freaks are out of control," Patricia Tome told Reuters in Kinshasa.

She said fighters of the Ugandan-backed Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) and two smaller factions were to blame for the atrocities in a war that has left an estimated two million dead since 1998 in Africa's third biggest country.

Investigators from the UN Mission in Congo (MONUC) were sent to the area around Beni near the Ugandan border after fighting which aid agencies say has uprooted about 155,000 people since mid-October.

Fighting continued despite a December peace deal to end the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but has now been ended by a local accord.

"The mission of inquiry received witness testimonies which corroborated reports of looting and systematic rape as well as summary executions and kidnappings, used as weapons of war," Tome said.

Among the victims were Pygmies, believed to be the original inhabitants of the rain forests at the heart of Africa before being displaced by other ethnic groups. Tome said some had been forced to flee the forest for the first time ever.

In New York, the UN Security Council issued a statement on Wednesday condemning "in the strongest terms" the massacres and human rights violations in the region and holding MLC leader Jean Pierre Bemba personally responsible for the security of civilians in the territory under his control.

"The members of the council demanded that Jean-Pierre Bemba ensure that these massacres and violations of human rights cease immediately and hold the perpetrators accountable," said the statement, read to reporters by Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere of France, the council president for January.

Bemba, who hopes to become one of Congo's vice-presidents when the December peace deal is implemented, said on Tuesday that he had placed under house arrest the officers responsible for the atrocities.

During a closed-door briefing on the situation in Congo, Security Council members also asked the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to study the possibility of sending peacekeepers to the area, de la Sabliere told reporters.

UN High Commissioner on Human Rights Sergio Vieira de Mello said during a visit to Kinshasa that it was important for the December peace accord that perpetrators of the atrocities in eastern Congo be brought to justice.

"It may take some time, it may be before an international or national criminal jurisdiction, but justice is one of the pillars of durable peace," he told Reuters.

"There is a culture of violence that exists because of the anarchy in this country," he said.

The UN investigators interviewed 368 people, including witnesses and victims, who said the fighters described their campaign as "wiping the slate clean." "It was presented to the population as a vaccination operation, aiming to loot every house and rape every woman," Tome said. *Reuters*

PEOPLE warm themselves around a fire during a cold and foggy morning in New Delhi Jan. 16. AFP

Temperatures plunge to record low in South Asia; 98 more killed

PATNA, India—Ninety-eight more people have succumbed to more than a month of cold weather in northern India and Bangladesh as temperatures hit their lowest point yet, reports said Thursday.

After a brief midweek respite, the mercury plunged to a record low of 2.1 degrees Celsius (35.8 Fahrenheit) in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, an impoverished area hard hit by the cold wave.

Forty-three more people died overnight from the cold in Bihar, local newspapers said, bringing the death toll across South Asia to close to 1,400.

The state's lowest temperature was recorded at Bodhgaya, where about 200,000 Buddhists, led by Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, are halfway through the Kalchakra religious festival.

"The temperature of 2.1 Celsius is the state's all-time low," a government meteorologist said.

Dense fog blanketed the capital New Delhi, delaying flights and trains.

East of here in Calcutta, the temperature was 9.4 degrees Celsius (48.9 Fahrenheit), five degrees below normal and the lowest in the metropolis in more than a decade, weather officials said.

The media reported 10 deaths in West Bengal state, which includes Calcutta, bringing India's cold-related death toll to 643 since mid-December, according to reports.

At least 1,391 people have been reported dead around South Asia since the cold wave set in last month, with the poor, elderly and children at particular risk.

Many rural areas of the subcontinent are ill-prepared for cold weather, as much of the year is hot and sticky.

Officials across the region have tried to respond publicly to the crisis, visiting the homeless and handing out blankets, but they have given few figures on the toll from the cold wave.

Bangladesh has not given any official number of deaths, while in Bihar state officials have only confirmed 11 deaths.

In Bangladesh, newspapers reported 36 more deaths overnight as the capital Dhaka Thursday saw its lowest temperature yet this season at 9.7 degrees Celsius, a drop of two and a half degrees from a day earlier.

Cold temperatures are likely to keep Bangladesh shivering at least through Friday, a government meteorologist said.

The cold spell has badly affected regional agriculture, with planted saplings yellowing from lack of sunlight and stored seeds attacked by insects drawn by the damp weather.

In Bihar, vendors reported a sharp rise in the price of staple vegetables as the local market anticipated a weakened harvest.

North of here in Nepal, nine more people died in the Terai region, the Himalayan kingdom's fertile lowland region bordering India, newspapers said.

But temperatures have steadily risen in most of Nepal. In Kathmandu, the sun was out Thursday and the highest temperature was six degrees Celsius, up five degrees from earlier in the week.

One Indian meteorologist said the harsh winter could be the work of El Nino, the weather phenomenon that disrupts the ocean-atmosphere system in the tropical Pacific with major consequences for the rest of the globe.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration warned in July that El Nino was back, but did not expect it to be as serious as its last appearance in 1997-1998 when it was blamed for the deaths of 22,000 people and $36 billion in damage. *AFP*

Coup colonel now Ecuador leader

QUITO, Ecuado—Retired Col. Lucio Gutierrez took office as Ecuador's president on Wednesday three years after leading a coup and vowed to weed out corruption and alleviate poverty in his "moribund" nation.

"We will need to revive a moribund country. Economically, the nation is dying. Ethically and socially, it is being destroyed," Gutierrez told thousands of supporters in a speech at a soccer stadium hours after taking his oath of office.

"But if we unite, and if we give this beautiful country love and passion, we're going to advance," he said.

The 45-year-old left-leaning populist has raised high hopes among the poor majority in this Andean nation of 12 million people that is rich in oil but rife with poverty.

Meeting the demands of his poor supporters and of financiers will be a tough balancing act for Gutierrez, who led his troops in support of an Indian revolt that toppled former President Jamil Mahuad during an economic crisis in 2000.

Gutierrez was imprisoned for six months following the coup.

After his release, he quit the army and formed a political party, knitting together the poor and native Indians to win a surprise victory over established parties in last year's vote.

He has also had to reassure investors he will keep a tight rein on government spending as he struggles to keep Ecuador from repeating its foreign debt default of 1999. He promises a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund and to pay the nation's $11 billion in obligations to foreign lenders.

GUTIERREZ waving to the crowd Jan. 15 after taking his oath of office. AFP

Ecuador adopted the US dollar in 2000 after the economic crisis.

Imposing fiscal austerity will be no easy task in an impoverished country where a restive population overthrew the last two elected leaders in massive protests. Indians in his coalition have already threatened to take to the streets.

The son of a riverboat salesman, Gutierrez wants to slash the size of Congress and reduce the influence of political parties, proposals strongly resisted by members of the country's elite who have long ruled the nation.

After swearing in, Gutierrez headed to a soccer stadium packed with tens of thousands of supporters waving the rainbow flag of the Indian movement and his party's red and green colors, to pledge his loyalty to the poor. *Reuters*

Venezuela opposition offers easing of strike

CARACAS—Venezuela's opposition proposed Wednesday easing a crippling general strike to allow a respite from mounting shortages, as Latin American leaders met in Ecuador to propose solutions to the 45-day-old crisis.

While international mediation attempts were gathering pace in Quito at President Lucio Gutierrez's investiture, protest marches continued in downtown Caracas.

A spate of pillaging in two Venezuelan towns also left three people with gunshot wounds, according to media.

Eleven people were arrested at Guiria, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) east of the Venezuelan capital, as three bakeries, a pharmacy and three warehouses—two of them major food warehouses—were looted, the daily El Nacional said.

Pillaging was also reported at Ciudad Bolivar, some 450 kilometers (280 miles) southeast of Caracas.

The looting broke out as Chavez opponents continued to seek his ouster from office despite a new proposal to allow some flexibility in a strike which they say could yet continue for "weeks and months." As well as leaving food and critical products in short supply, the work stoppages have crippled the oil industry of Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter and one of the top three US suppliers.

But a proposal by new Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to regional leaders is a new factor in international efforts to find a solution to the Venezuela crisis.

Presidents Alvaro Uribe of Colombia, Ricardo Lagos of Chile, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia, and Alejandro Toledo of Peru were to be present, as well as Organization of American States boss Cesar Gaviria. *AFP*

British showbiz stars linked to child sex abuse

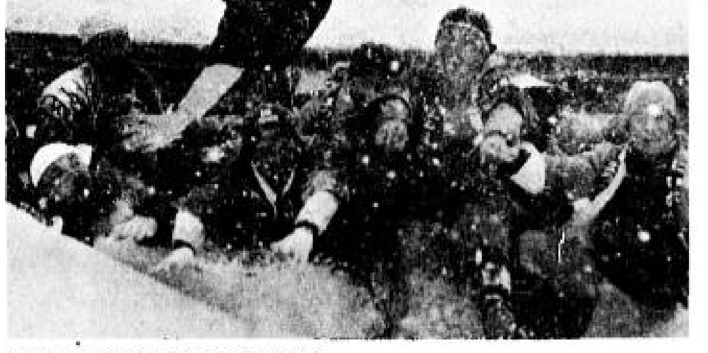
LONDON—Former Bay City Rollers pop group manager Tam Paton and popular television presenter Matthew Kelly have joined a growing list of British showbiz stars to have been arrested over pedophilia allegations.

The arrests of Kelly and Paton late Wednesday, in connection with allegations of sexual abuse against young boys during the 1970s, come after rock star Pete Townshend, of British group The Who, was arrested Monday on suspicion of child pornography offences.

Townshend, The Who's lead guitarist and main songwriter, was arrested on suspicion of possessing indecent images of children, suspicion of making indecent images of children and, on suspicion of incitement to distribute indecent images of children.

He was freed on bail on Tuesday after being held as part of Operation Ore—a US-led investigation into online pedophilia. The arrests of Paton and Kelly were not connected to that operation, a police spokesman said.

Police sources Thursday confirmed the arrests of talent show host Kelly, 52, and former Bay City Rollers manager Paton. *AFP*



HITCHED AND TOSSED AFP

A bridegroom flies upside-down in the air with a laugh as he receives a rough celebration by being tossed over a snowy slope by a group of men during the annual mid-January festival of "Tossing the Bridegroom" in Matsunoyamamachi in Niigata prefecture, Japan, Jan. 15.

Judge rules teen sniper suspect Malvo will be tried as an adult

FAIRFAX, Va.—A judge ruled on Wednesday that 17-year-old sniper suspect John Malvo will be tried as an adult and face charges carrying the death penalty for his alleged role in a Washington-area shooting spree.

Judge Charles Maxfield of Fairfax County Juvenile Court in Virginia told a preliminary hearing there was sufficient cause to charge Malvo with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit an act of terrorism.

"It is true there are no eyewitnesses placing the defendant at any of these four crimes (discussed in the hearing), however the circumstantial evidence is quite strong," Maxfield said.

Malvo, wearing a blue-green prison jumpsuit, was very attentive at the hearing, looking directly at witnesses as they spoke, but said nothing himself and remained still.

Asked about the decision to try Malvo as an adult, defense attorney Michael Arif said: "He is a 17-year-old kid and we're not happy it is being certified as a death case." Malvo, also known as Lee Boyd Malvo, and his 42-year-old traveling companion John Allen Muhammad are accused of killing 10 people and wounding three in and around the US capital in October, seemingly picking off victims at random with a high-powered rifle.

In Fairfax, Malvo is charged with capital murder in the Oct. 14 shooting death of Linda Franklin, an FBI analyst killed outside a home improvement store.

He is charged under Virginia's new antiterrorism law, which provides for a possible death penalty for anyone who acted to intimidate the government or the general population.

After Wednesday's hearing, Maxfield set a tentative trial date of Feb. 25, although defense lawyers said the date would likely be pushed back.

Prosecutor Robert Horan said Malvo demanded money in two telephone calls to police, and prosecutors entered audio tapes of the calls into evidence.

"These defendants, and in specific this defendant, commencing October 15, wanted to negotiate with the government . . . they wanted to negotiate for money," Horan said. "In essence, what they were saying is, if you want us to stop killing people, give us the money." Witnesses at the two-day hearing outlined evidence found at four Washington-area shooting scenes including bullet fragments, two hand-written notes and a glove, as well as a discarded package of raisins that allegedly carried Malvo's fingerprints.

Horan called 24 witnesses, most of them police and forensic experts but also including Franklin's husband, William, who was with his wife when she was shot.

No witnesses reported seeing Malvo or the blue Chevrolet Caprice in which he was arrested along with Muhammad, or the rifle found in that car.

Fingerprint expert Charles Coleman of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said a fingerprint from Malvo's left ring finger was found on the gun, the only identifiable fingerprint found on the weapon. *Reuters*

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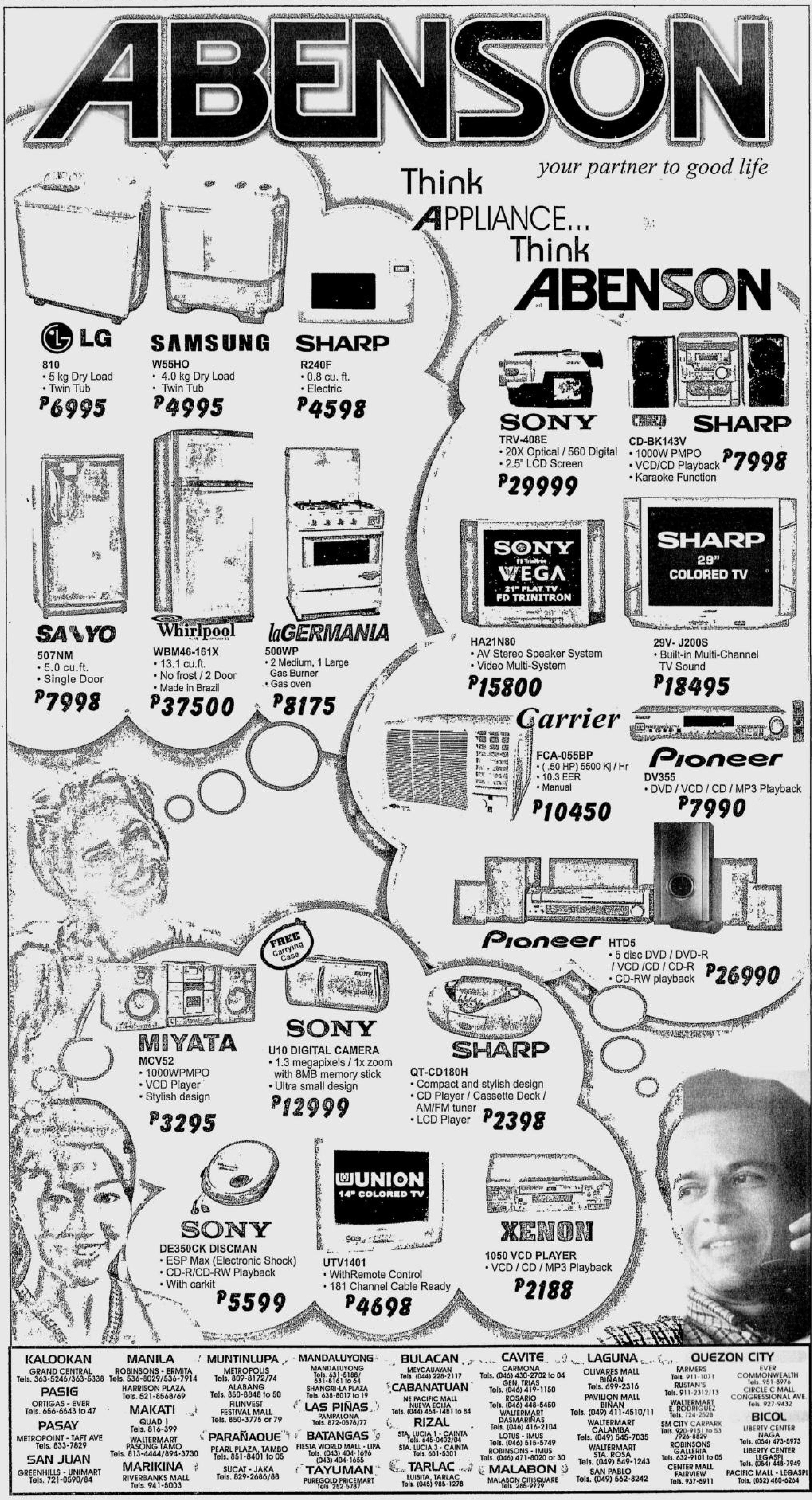

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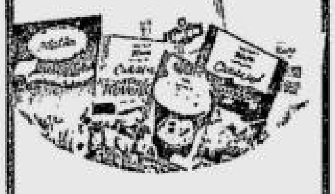

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Agri exec sacked at solons' behest

BAGUIO CITY—Twenty-two days after a congressman asked President Macapagal for her head, the Cordillera director of the Department of Agriculture found herself replaced by another official who faced four graft cases.

Dr. Elizabeth Versola said she was surprised by the return of Dr. Faustino Maslan, the former director who was summoned to Manila during the term of Edgardo Angara as agriculture secretary to face four graft cases.

Rep. Mauricio Domogan and six Cordillera congressmen lobbied for the return of Maslan in several petitions sent to Malacañang.

Verzola said she was surprised by the lobby, but said she relented when she was advised to retire on Tuesday by unidentified DA officials.

Lorenzo reinstated Maslan, who was detailed by Angara to Manila for three years to answer several graft complaints.

Maslan said all but one complaint had since been dropped.

Last week, Dr. Blo Umpar Adiong, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), dialogued with Igorot farmers and Benguet officials, months after he was vilified by protesting farmers for allowing the importation of European and Australian vegetables.

Verzola's sacking and Adiong's visit were supposed to complement the daily operations of an anti-smuggling task force headed by Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the Presidential Security Group, according to La Trinidad Councilor John Kim, an Ibaloi farmer.

According to Kim, farmers from 46 provinces are launching an agricultural watchdog group next week to tackle corruption and inefficiency in the farming industry.

This came in spite of the President's efforts to forestall a vegetable market crash, the Benguet Farmers Federation (BFF) said.

Kim said AgriWatch, which will be composed of farmers' organizations and peasant rights advocates, will confront the agriculture industry's crisis with importers and smugglers.

Farmers from Benguet and Mt. Province have been waging since August last year protest rallies against Ms Macapagal's globalization agenda here, in La Trinidad, Benguet, and in Metro Manila.

"But we see now that this is not about the President's policies but her subordinates' actions," said Marites Dionisio, president of the BFF.

Ms Macapagal spent most of her Christmas vacation touring Benguet's farms and meeting the region's farmers.

But Kim noted that these measures failed to stabilize vegetable prices.

"Farm gate prices remain very low because . . . smuggled vegetables from China still penetrate the market," Dionisio said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Gloria visit ushers in repair of Baguio parks

BAGUIO CITY—Local officials here are rushing the rehabilitation of several parks in the city after President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly got dismayed by their bad state.

Ignacio Estipona, city parks superintendent, said the order to rehabilitate came directly from the President.

Ms Macapagal and her family were in the city from Dec. 26 to Jan. 2 and visited some of the city's parks.

The President is expected to grace the opening parade of the Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga on Feb. 22.

Estipona said Ms Macapagal specifically ordered city officials to improve Wright Park, which is just across the presidential Mansion, the official residence of Philippine presidents in the city.

Ms Macapagal and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo took their granddaughter, Gloria Mikaela, for a stroll in Wright Park on New Year's Day.

"The President commented that the park badly needs rehabilitation. The pond was empty and the place dirty," Estipona said.

On Tuesday, the city government ordered the demolition of at least 52 stalls selling souvenir items and food around the 8.6-hectare park.

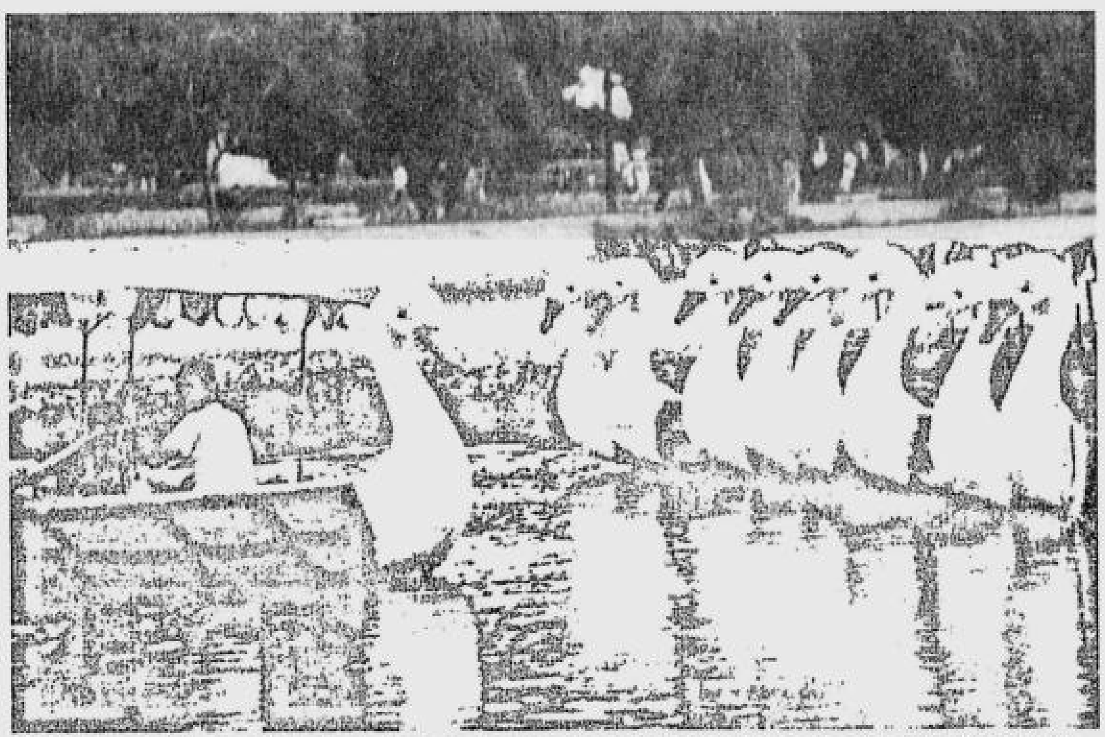
"(The President) called them eyesores in the beautiful park," Estipona said.

Despite initial steps to clean the park, the city government could not implement the complete rehabilitation in time for the President's visit next month due to financial constraints, he said.

The rehabilitation of Wright Park alone would cost the city P24 million, he said.

"In the meantime, we will fill the pond with water and plant flowers around the park in preparation for the President's inspection. But the horses' stable and other areas in the park will remain the same," he said.

He said they had also placed benches and a kiosk near the pond.



SWAN heads attached to boats float above the man-made Burnham Park, one of Baguio City's parks that are up for rehabilitation.

FILE

He said the city would spend P20,000 to fill the pond with water. "We are afraid that we have to fill the pond every now and then because of leaks around its concrete wall," he said.

Estipona said their problem is where to get the money to fund the rehabilitation of the park. "We have several priority projects lined up for this year and Wright Park is not included in these projects," he said.

The city is also set to rehabilitate Pacdal Park (P155 million), Bayan Park (P58 million), Mines View Park (P50 million) and the Baguio Botanical Garden (P10 million).

Estipona said they will also rehabilitate Burnham Park, the city's premier park, but this will be done in phases. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Former NPA leader slain in Pagadian City cockpit

PAGADIAN CITY—Four unidentified gunmen shot to death a former ranking communist leader in Western Mindanao early dawn on Wednesday just outside the crowded city cockpit here, the police said.

Oscar Dahiroc alias Commander Bomber, the former deputy secretary of the New People's Army's Front Committee Amores and a voting member of the Western Mindanao Regional Party Committee (WMRPC), was about to leave the Teresita Cockpit around 4:40 a.m. when he was attacked.

The victim was escorting Ben Agua, a businessman based in Margosatubig, Zamboanga del Sur, who gambled in the five-cock derby held in the arena.

"Our witnesses said four young looking suspects were waiting for Commander Bomber outside the cockpit. When he emerged out of the cockpit, they then attacked him and fired at him," Chief Insp. Nelson Eucogco, city police chief, said.

Dahiroc died of multiple gunshot wounds, mostly in the head.

Eucogco said the police remained clueless as to the identities of the suspects or what their motive was.

But he said the suspects were apparently "very mad" at the victim because they emptied their pistols on him.

Police investigators found out that at least 14 bullets hit Dahiroc in the head.

Col. Ignacio Obligacion, commanding officer of the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion based in Guipos town, said Dahiroc, a former military asset, could have been killed by his former comrades in the New People's Army (NPA).

The victim, he said, had apparently angered the NPA when he surrendered on Dec. 24, 1998. Dahiroc had been in charge of the NPA's firearms and ammunition in the region. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Art exhibit one of Iloilo fest highlights

ILOILO CITY—A group of internationally and nationally acclaimed artists will exhibit their paintings at the Museo de Iloilo, one of the many cultural treats highlighting the 2003 Dinagyang Festival here.

Part of the entourage is Ambeth Ocampo, president of the National Historical Institute and columnist of the INQUIRER, said Joe Mari Trenas, chair of the Museo de Iloilo Foundation that organizes the visit and exhibit.

Ocampo will be a special guest along with Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. on invitation by Mayor Jerry Trenas.

"We are specially honored by the exhibits and personal presence of these famous Filipino artists," said the mayor. "It's difficult to assemble them together in Iloilo, and they will surely add luster to our Dinagyang Festival."

The visitors, whose fare and accommodation would be shouldered by private individuals, include Ben Cabrera better known by his signature "Bencab."

His works have been exhibited internationally.

They will arrive Jan. 23 for the opening of the exhibits the next day at about 4 p.m.

Their hosts will tour them in historical and cultural spots. The exhibits will close at the end of the month.

Bencab represents a group of Baguio-based artists called Tamawan. *PDI Visayas Bureau*

Vehicle owners get 1-yr break from smoke tests

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Vehicle owners in the Visayas, Mindanao and many parts of Luzon still have a year to prepare for smoke emission tests as a requirement for registration mandated under the Clean Air Act, Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said on Wednesday.

Gozun said that smoke emission tests as a requisite for registration of vehicles are so far only being required in Metro Manila, Central Luzon (Region 4) and Cagayan Valley (Region 3).

The Clean Air Act's implementing rules and regulations, she explained, states that the smoke emission tests will take effect nationwide 12 to 18 months after the law's implementation in Metro Manila.

This means it will be implemented in the rest of the country by January or June 2004, Gozun said.

Gozun made the clarification as public utility vehicle drivers, including those in Negros Occidental, continued to oppose the implementation of the smoke emission tests, saying the P300 fee for the tests was excessive.

Gozun said she would ask DENR officials in Western Visayas to meet with the drivers and explain to them why the tests are needed.

"Smoke emissions tests are preventive, not reactive," she added, stressing that the reason for requiring the emission tests prior to registration of vehicles is to ensure that vehicles would no longer spew pollutants into the air.

Under the Clean Air Act, vehicles that emit smoke at a density level of more than 64 hertz are considered to be emitting pollutants.

"Properly maintained vehicles can meet the standards," Gozun pointed out. "This is not just good for the environment, it will also ensure that their vehicles are energy efficient," she said.

Gozun noted that it has been three years since the Clean Air Act was passed and she believed that three years were more than enough time for vehicle owners to prepare for the implementation of the law.

The role of the DENR in vehicular emissions is only to set standards. Enforcement will be done by the Department of Transportation and Communication through the Land Transportation Office, Gozun added.

In Metro Manila the testing of public utility vehicles for smoke emission is done by the LTO so it costs only P90, instead of P300, she said.

In other areas, the authority to operate a smoke emission testing center is being given to private firms, she added.

Gov't launches program to legalize stay of Indons

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) Commissioner Andrea Domingo led the launching on Tuesday of a government program giving legal status to more than 7,000 illegal Indonesian nationals born and residing in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area.

Domingo said the BID waived the penalties against overstaying and unregistered Indonesians living in the country to encourage them to avail of the program.

Under the BID's amnesty program, Indonesians born in the Socsargen area could obtain residency visas or could apply for Filipino citizenship by presenting authenticated birth certificates from the local civil registrar, submission of four copies of 2X2 ID pictures and payment of a P1,060 registration fee for applicants aged 18 years old and above and P500 for those below 18 years of age.

The registration started also on Tuesday and would end next year.

Gustap Ladorang, 44, was the first of the illegal Indons to receive his alien certificate of registration from the BID.

Ladorang presented Domingo with an authenticated certificate of live birth issued by the local registrar here.

After signing the documents, Domingo told Ladorang: "You are now a permanent resident of the Philippines because you were born here."

She also vowed to facilitate Ladorang's naturalization papers should he wish to become a Filipino citizen.

Domingo said there are at least 12,000 Indonesians living in the country, but only about 7,000 were registered during a census conducted by the BID office in 1999.

Setiawon Sedikin, Indonesian consul, revealed that based on the record of his office, there are 2,703 Indons in the Philippines and 3,672 who are now seeking legalization of their stay, excluding 1,158 dependents.

Of the total figure, only 352 have applied for Filipino citizenship.

Meanwhile, Domingo tasked Sr. Insp. Francisco Dungo, BID action officer for Mindanao, to look into reports that some Chinese immigrants have been violating immigration laws.

The BID chief said she received reports that some Chinese nationals are engaged in the retail business, an act prohibited under the investor visas issued to them.

Some Chinese nationals reportedly now own and operate retail businesses inside the Cogon public market in Cagayan de Oro City.

Chinese traders were monitored retailing dry goods and cheap imitation products in Cagayan de Oro while others were seen vending in Davao City. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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DENR stops cutting of trees by cooperatives

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun Monday announced she has cancelled all permits to cut trees in Community Based Forestry Management Agreement (CBFMA) areas throughout the country, amid reports of massive cutting even of naturally grown trees.

Gozun said even the holders of valid permits would also be ordered to stop all cutting of trees in the CBFMA areas.

"We will inventory all those that are already cut, identify legitimate buyers, and allow them one month to dispose of what they have," she said.

The DENR will reassess the current CBFMA guidelines "so that we can come out with new ones," said Gozun, who met with Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon and mayors of Negros Occidental here Monday to listen to their concerns.

Negrenses have been raising a howl over the discovery last year that centuries-old trees in a 3,500-hectare forest reserve in Don Salvador Benedicto town, 42 km east of Bacolod City, have been cut down.

Local officials, including town mayor Cynthia de'la Cruz, were linked to the logging and are currently facing investigation.

It was later learned that the area where the trees have been cut was covered by a CBFMA granted to the Sibalao Agroforest Development Association Inc. headed by Nehemias de la Cruz Jr., the mayor's son.

Farmers in the area asked Gozun to cancel the CBFMA given to Sibalao. They said they had been farmers of the land in question since 1942, while the officers and members of the group granted the CBFMA are not from the area.

Gozun promised to act on the complaint.

CHURCH SCANDAL

Augustinian priest sued for sex abuses

By Lino K. Parone Jr. and Suzzane Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Augustinian priest Apolinario "Jing" Mejorada, a former rector of the Basilica Minore del Sto. Niño, was charged on Tuesday with violation of the Child Abuse Act, the first priest in Cebu sued for allegedly sexually abusing boys.

The complaint for acts of lasciviousness was filed before the Cebu City prosecutor's office by a young man, one of the four former altar boys of the basilica who came out in the open in July last year, at the height of the sexual abuse scandals hitting the Catholic Church in the United States, hurling similar charges against Mejorada.

They claimed that Mejorada sexually abused them in different occasions between 1995 and 1999.

The Augustinian priests who run the Basilica declined to comment on the filing of the complaint. The prior of the Augustinian community in Cebu, Fr. Ambrosio Galindez, had admitted to reporters on July 19, 2002 that Mejorada had owned up to the wrongdoing in a meeting with his fellow priests in the congregation.

It was later learned that before the scandal broke out, a monetary settlement of P120,000 was given to each of the altar boys in October 2000. It was also agreed that Mejorada would be assigned to another country.

One of the victims told reporters in July that he was forced to spill the beans on Mejorada because he felt betrayed when he saw the priest on May 25, 2002 at the basilica despite assurances that he would be sent out of the country.

After the scandal broke out, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal announced there would be an investigation. So far, no results have been released.

Mejorada has since left the basilica. He reportedly underwent intensive "spiritual renewal" in a Church-run facility in an undisclosed place in the country.

Church officials in Cebu were mum about the facility but Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato City had told the INQUIRER last year that the Church offers an intensive program of renewal for priests who have gone astray. He said the program aims to heal priests with the help of professional counselors, spiritual directors and psychiatrists.

The complainant, who is now in his early 20s, said he no longer expected to get justice from Church officials. This, he said, forced him to seek legal remedy.

"(Getting) no justice from within the Church leadership, I have decided to seek justice from the regular courts hoping that such dastardly acts of Fr. Jing would be given due course in accordance with law," he said

A source, however, said Mejorada had actually been found guilty by the investigating team of the Cebu Archdiocese.

"The investigation was wrapped up last December and members of the committee convened by Cardinal Vidal were all convinced the accused is guilty. That was the official verdict," the source said Wednesday.

Under the Revised Code of Canon Law which governs the actions and responsibilities of diocesan and religious priests of the Catholic Church, Mejorada stood to receive "just punishments" including dismissal from the priesthood.

Police arrest suspects in murder of Japanese

DAVAO CITY—Police here arrested at least four suspects, including a 17-year-old girl, in connection with the death of a Japanese national, whose body was found dumped in Davao del Norte on Sunday.

Chief Insp. Vicente Danao, chief of the Talomo police, said one of the suspects admitted that a companion killed Hayashi Akito, 55, of Hiroshima, Japan and later dumped his body at the Bingcungan Bridge in Tagum City.

The Japanese was the live-in partner of the 17-year-old suspect.

The other suspects were identified as Jerry Roncal, 33, Joseph Villegas, 24 and a Lovely Bill, 19.

Danao said Akito and the girl, who reside in Digos City, went out with Bill Friday night and entered a videoke in Maa here.

Roncal and Villegas joined them until 1 a.m.

Akito allegedly went rowdy and quarreled with his live-in partner.

He also insisted on driving his white Nissan with plate number TBX 919.

But Akito told them he still wanted to roam around. This irked his live-in partner.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Bill said she heard the girl telling Roncal that the Japanese was moneyed.

She said Roncal then decided to rob Akito but the Japanese fought back. Roncal started to stab the victim.

Bill said she pleaded that the Japanese be brought to a hospital but Roncal just kept on stabbing.

"Just finish him off," Bill quoted the victim's live-in partner as saying. *Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

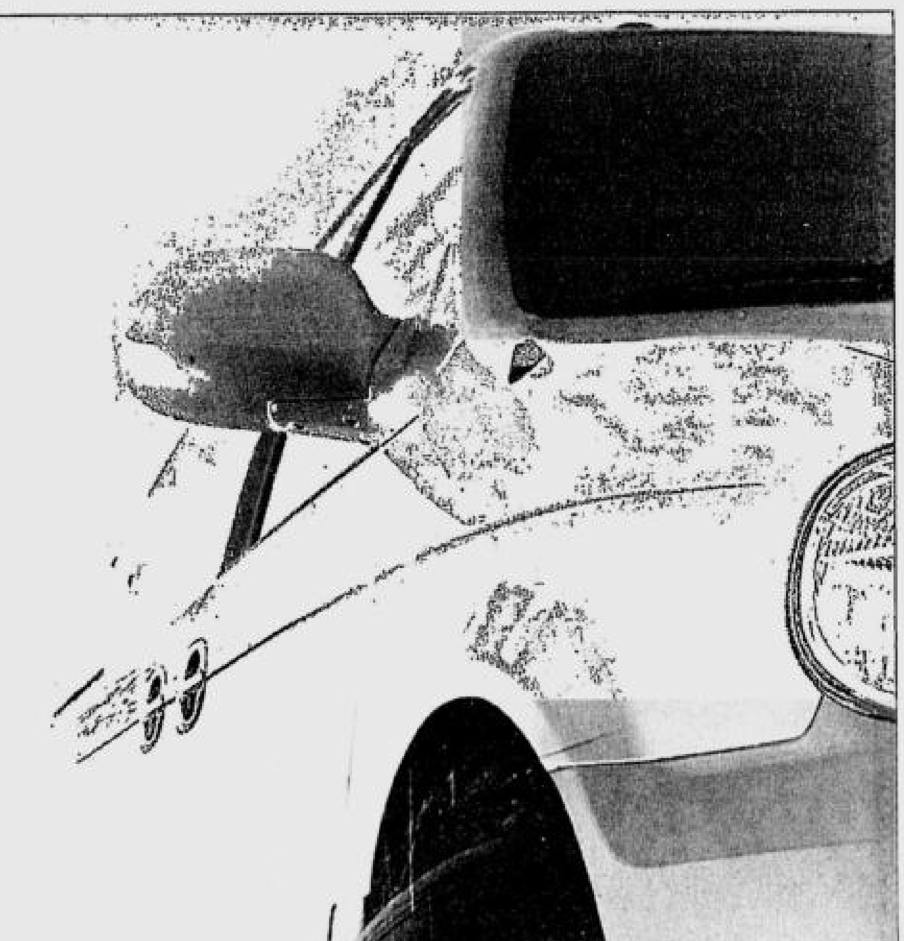
MA at Pag-IBIG F
Kina

COLLECTION DEAL

PHOTO FROM PAG-IBIG

The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), Pag-Ibig Fund and Haus-Land Assets and Realty recently signed a deal to ease the collection of amortizations from housing beneficiaries in Capas, Tarlac. Shown signing the deal are Armando de Castro, HUDCC secretary general (third from left); Willy Tan, Haus-Land president; and Romero Quimbo, Pag-Ibig president and chief executive officer.

Vividly DVD.



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Circus? Bunye refuses to say sorry to Senate

By Dona Pazzibugan

SORRY, but don't expect any apology.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday refused to apologize to the Senate for calling last Tuesday's hearing on the controversial Impsa contract, which was attended by ousted President Joseph Estrada, a "circus."

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. was quoted as saying that he wanted to summon Bunye to explain his use of the word. But Bunye instead said Pimentel was "overreacting."

The former Muntinlupa congressman conceded that his use of the word circus "may have been inappropriate,"

"Nevertheless it is too minor an occurrence and I don't understand why (Pimentel) was overreacting," he said at his regular news briefing.

He pointed out that other senators at the hearing used "far more intemperate and inflammatory language while grandstanding at the expense of the administration."

From circus to circus

Calling him to appear at the Senate hearing to explain his use of the word "would then turn the matter into a circus," he went on.

But Bunye said he would attend, if summoned.

But he said he would point out that it was a "waste of taxpayers' money and precious legislative and executive time on trifles."

Later, Bunye asked members of the media to simply ignore the matter, saying he did not want to get into an argument with Pimentel, "whom I consider a gentleman."

"*Para matapos na, huwag na nating isulat ito* (To end this, let's not write about it anymore). End of the story," Bunye said.

After Estrada's testimony at the Senate, Bunye said the President "will not be distracted by this circus."

Bunye yesterday explained that he merely wanted to show that the President attended to more pressing matters rather "than watch the spectacle of a discredited former president."

Estrada claimed he was offered $14 million by Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to approve the Impsa deal, but said he did not look at it as a bribe.

The former President also insisted that former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez inserted a provision for a "government guarantee" in his Jan. 24, 2001 legal opinion.

Impsa officials have denied this.

Buck-passing: Erap blames GMA; FVR tags Erap

From page A1

the Estrada administration," Ramos said.

The former President said it was significant to note that the draft approved by the Neda board in June 1998 during his term included an acknowledgement of obligations under which the Argentine firm Impsa confirms that "(no) government guaranty, direct or indirect, shall be given to this CBK-BROT project in compliance with the national government's policy"—referring to the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power venture.

Propaganda campaign?

Estrada once again lashed out at the "intense propaganda campaign against me and my government's participation in the deal."

"I almost thought they were out to oust me again (as President)," he said in a statement in mixed Filipino and English.

"But no matter what explanations resigned Secretary Perez along with the mouthpieces of the (Macapagal) Arroyo government say, the fact is that the controversial DOJ opinion addressed to the lenders of Impsa came out four days after Edsa Dos," he said.

"If final approval happened in my administration, why did Perez have to sign the DOJ opinion of Jan. 24, 2001?" Estrada asked.

"I dare this government," Estrada said, to include the Impsa deal among the criminal cases pending against him before the Sandiganbayan—if indeed he was "guilty of approving a contract (which) turned out to be onerous."

The ex-President, detained on plunder charges, also wondered aloud why Perez on Wednesday tried to steer himself clear of the controversy by claiming he had just "copied" the draft legal opinion prepared by Estrada's justice chief Artemio Toquero.

"I thought this administration looked down on mine as having been run by people who were not as smart as they are," he said.

He noted that while the Macapagal presidency "vowed to change all that is bad in government," it "abandoned prudence in contrast to the manner I took in delaying the (Impsa contract's) approval despite repeated requests by my predecessor (former President Ramos), Impsa officials, and the government of Argentina."

The Macapagal administration must have had "millions" of reasons for doing so, he insinuated.

Ramos draft

Ramos said that the Neda-approved draft contract was among the documents turned over to the Estrada administration during the 45-day transition period leading to Estrada's proclamation.

"According to Mr. Estrada, he signed the Impsa-NPC agreement as a witness just as his predecessors signed documents as witness. I do not recall having signed as a witness in any contract with a private party during my term. Erap (the ex-President's nickname) must be imagining things or was simply misled," Ramos added.

Ramos also questioned the part of Estrada's testimony where his successor said that Impsa undertook the first phase of the project and part of the second phase during his term at their own risk.

"(The companies) involved are international players. Do you think that they would risk that much money on something without any guaranty or assurance from the authorities then?" Ramos asked.

"Probably, certain concessions have already been made (with the Estrada administration)," he added.

GMA won't crack whip on Cha-cha

From page A1

neutrality on Charter change.

There are suspicions that Malacañang is silently supporting the move to change the Constitution and the shift to a parliamentary form of government. Once the Constitution is amended, the President to be elected in 2004 would become a ceremonial leader and the head of government would be elected by his or her peers in parliament. Ms Macapagal had said that she would not run in the 2004 presidential election. But she can run for a seat in parliament where she can be elected as prime minister.

But Bunye reminded that, "The President has done her part in reminding legislators how she feels about Charter change," he said. "We can leave it at that."

At a caucus Wednesday, the Lakas-dominated House of Representatives led by Lakas cochair, House Speaker Jose de Venecia, voted 126-2 for Charter change through Congress constituting itself into a constituent assembly. *(See story on this page.)*

"The President has not been remiss on this," Bunye said of Ms Macapagal's supposed reminder to legislators of her stand on the issue.

"They (lawmakers) can do whatever they want to do provided that the 2004 elections are not affected," he said, reiterating Ms Macapagal's stand on Charter change.

Bunye also cited members of the House of the results of separate surveys conducted by Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia regarding the public's sentiment on Charter change. "As you will see, there's a finding ... that majority of our people are not inclined at this time to have a change in the Charter," he said.

Bunye noted that pro-Charter change congressmen had been claiming that there was a public clamor for constitutional amendments. "I guess they'll have to really examine the survey results and really find out what the people want," he said.

Now, there are 9 senators against Cha-cha

By Cynthia D. Balana

AT least nine senators are now against the proposed Charter change (Cha-cha) if the process is conducted through the convening of the House of Representatives and the Senate into a constituent assembly.

The senators are Senate President Franklin Drilon, Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, Majority Leader Loren Legarda, Ralph Recto, Joker Arroyo, Ramon Magsaysay, Manny Villar and Francis Pangillnan.

At least 18 votes (3/4s) in the 24-member Senate are needed so that Congress can convene into a constituent assembly.

"I don't think there is enough numbers in the Senate to support Cha-cha," Arroyo said. "It's a conscience vote, and the senators act what is good for the country," he said.

Drilon said he would prefer changing the Charter through a constitutional convention (Concon) whose delegates will be elected in 2004.

"We believe that regardless of the merit of a proposal to amend the Constitution, it will suffer from credibility problems," he said.

Drilon said people would have the impression that any proposal from both houses of Congress were tainted with self-interest. "That is why the merits of the proposal may not even be discussed on its real merits because of the source," he said.

Drilon said, however, that senators were one in reviewing the Constitution but differed on the mode.

Sen. John Osmeña said the call for a constituent assembly would be an "uphill effort" in the Senate and that it would be easier to follow the Concon route. He suggested that delegates to the Concon be elected in May or June, and not in 2004.

Recto said he was against any Cha-cha between now and 2004 because of the limited time. With the national elections 18 month away, there is no guarantee that the debates on the proposed amendments would be completed by 2004, according to Recto.

"The SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) bill took us one-and-half years. What more of Cha-cha and the lifting of certain economic provisions?" Recto said at a press briefing.

Should the Cha-cha prosper this year, Sen. Robert Barbers wants a provision allowing the president and vice president to come from only one party to avoid a feud. He also wants a provision increasing the equity limit for foreign investors in Philippine corporations.

Cha-cha minority not giving up fight

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THEY may be severely outnumbered but opponents of Charter change in the House of Representatives will put up a good fight on the floor, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said yesterday.

Though the House voted 126-2 in a caucus Wednesday in favor of amending the 1987 Constitution, Padilla vowed that those against Charter change would subject House Concurrent Resolution No. 16 to intense debate.

The resolution seeks to convene the House and the Senate into a constituent assembly to propose amendments to the Constitution, including its economic provisions and the form of government. The resolution, filed by more than 80 House members, will be up for deliberations next week.

Padilla hinted that the minority and other Charter change opponents might use the quorum, the tried and tested formula when one wants to block the swift passage of certain measures in the House.

On Wednesday, Representatives Gilbert Remulla, Rolex Suplico, Ronaldo Zamora and Antonio Cuenco, who were listed as co-authors asked that their names be withdrawn from the resolution.

"Most of the members of the minority are against Charter change and we will vote against it," Padilla said.

Of the 228 House members who attended Wednesday's caucus, only Camarines Sur Rep. Sulpicio "Cho" Roco and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran voted against Charter change. The House members also voted 121-7 in favor of convening House and Senate into a constituent assembly as the mode for amending the Charter.

"At least the caucus showed that not all members of the House are for Cha-cha as the House leadership claims," said Leyte Rep. Ted Failon, one of the seven who voted for the formation of a constitutional convention.

One argument that Charter change opponents in the House could use in the plenary debates is the absence of a popular clamor for amending the Constitution outside Congress.

Representatives Roco, Imee Marcos (Ilocos Norte) and Bayan Muna's Beltran and Liza Maza belied the findings of the House committee on constitutional amendments that there was a public clamor for Charter change.

Marcos noted that a Social Weather Stations survey had found that four out of five Filipinos were against Charter change.

"With due respect to my colleagues, there is simply no outcry from the people for constitutional amendments. We would only be courting the ire of our people by proceeding with this issue for obviously self-serving reasons," Marcos said.

"Majority of the people have spoken their minds against the move to amend the Constitution. Aren't these people the same ones we represent here? They said no, so let's listen to them," she said.

Beltran asked why the committee headed by Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura did not conduct consultations in eight regions, which have more people than the regions where the committee conducted public hearings.

Marcos and Roco said Charter change would be a futile exercise because the Senate had served notice that senators were against it, at least not until after the 2004 elections. *(See related story)*

Roco, brother of presidential aspirant Raul Roco, said the House should just concentrate on legislation.

Waste of time, money

"Let us not waste our time, effort and the people's money for something that does not cater to the people's interests," Maza said, also citing the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys.

Nachura said there appeared to be an "organized anti-Charter change drive" as evidenced by the simultaneous release of the SWS and Pulse Asia surveys.

Nachura stood by his committee's findings that 88.5 percent of the people were clamoring for Charter change now.

Nachura said the surveys had few respondents. Moreover, he said one polling firm had asked the respondents the inappropriate question, "Are you aware of any provision in the Constitution that should be changed?"

Many Filipinos do not know the Constitution that well, according to Nachura. He said the result would have been different if the respondents were asked, "Is your life better under this Constitution?

"I respect the results of these surveys but I ask those who rely on surveys like this to closely look at how the questions were asked," he said.

Nachura said that aside from gathering the people in a meeting where there was a discussion of the issues, his committee also asked a direct question, "Are you in favor of amending the Constitution now?"

Representatives Gilbert Teodoro and Alfredo Marañon Jr., both of the Nationalist People's Coalition which is the second biggest party in the House, backed charter change.

"If Congress would decide on Charter change, it should be done now," said Teodoro, leader of the NPC.

Marañon said Congress should propose the amendments now to make them effective after the 2004 elections.

Without sex ...

From page A1

cording to a Belgian plant pathologist.

Emile Frison, the head of the International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain at Montpellier in France, said that without scientific help, the sterile, seedless fruit could disappear within 10 years.

Frison said the fruit lacked the genetic diversity to fight off diseases and pests plaguing banana plantations.

Worse, most of the world's commercial banana plantations rely heavily on a single variety, the cavendish, which is threatened by a fungal disease—the black sigatoka.

The cavendish's predecessor, the gros michel, was wiped out worldwide by a soil fungus in the 1950s.

10,000-year abstinence

Aside from the cavendish, all modern varieties are but clones of parent plants that diverged from a single seedless ancestor about 10,000 years ago in Vietnman.

That's how long the banana hasn't had sex. Seedless and sterile, bananas reproduce "vegetatively," with each generation an exact copy of the previous one.

Early growers planted cuttings from the ancestral banana, which in turn, grew into plants that produced more seedless fruit, along with underground shoots that grew into more plants.

Without diversity, the banana finds it difficult to survive new pests and fungus diseases.

"As soon as you bring in a new fungicide, they (fungi) develop resistance," Frison said. "One thing we can be sure of is the black sigatoka won't lose in this battle."

The black sigatoka, which started in Fiji in 1963, has spread and destroyed most of the banana plantations in the Amazon River basin. This could cut production by much as 70 percent in Amazonia, the second-largest growing area for bananas after China.

Only biotechnology and genetic manipulation may be able to save the banana.

"Frison sees it as the only hope for the banana," the New Scientist magazine said on Wednesday.

Without the intervention of scientists, banana production could drop and mark the beginning of the end of the fruit.

"We may even see the extinction of the banana as both a lifesaver for hungry and impoverished Africans and as the most popular product on the world's supermarket shelves," the New Scientist added. *With report from Reuters*

Back to old ...

From page A1

to Dulinayan, former Kiangan vice mayor and now project coordinator of the Ifugao Rice Terraces and Cultural Heritage Office.

The office was created in October last year, a few months after President Macapagal-Arroyo abolished the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force. The abolition transferred the responsibility of restoring and preserving the rice terraces to the Ifugao provincial government.

According to Dulinayan, there are 12 rice rituals in the annual agricultural calendar of the Ifugao.

Other rituals

The other rituals are "lukya," which starts the first working phase of the year; "hipngat," performed after a field cleaning when the fields are dotted with vegetable mounds; "panal," when the seeds are laid in the seedbed; "kulpi," which is performed after the planting season is over; "hagophop," which is the start of the weeding phase of the working season; "bodad," done during slope clearing when rice plants bear abundant grains; "paad," conducted after the rice grains mature; "ngilin," which is performed immediately before the actual harvest in a field; "ani," the harvest-day ritual; "upin," the post-harvest ritual, and "kahiw," which is performed at home to release the people from their promise to the gods.

"The 'bolnat,' which is the fourth ritual in the Ifugaos' agricultural calendar, is being done to ask blessings from the deities and ancestral spirits so that the farms and rice will be productive, robust, green and healthy," Dulinayan said.

The project is funded by the P50-million grant given to the provincial government to restore and preserve the rice terraces, in the irrigation projects being implemented in Kiangan, Banaue, Hungduan and Mayoyao towns.

According to Dulinayan, another P50 million will be given by the

National Commission for Culture and the Arts next year for the rice terraces project.

The rice-planting activity serves as a test, to see if the indigenous way of farming can be restored, Dulinayan said.

"The problem now is modernization that seeks to change the old ways of farming and we can see that the condition of the rice terraces is deteriorating" because of the introduction and adoption of modernized agricultural inputs, he said.

After harvest, rice paddies also serves as planting areas for vegetables as alternate crops through organic farming, Dulinayan said. The rice paddies with their flowing water supply protect their vegetables from pests and diseases.

He said the strategy of the provincial government was to restore the old farming practices that had built the rice terraces, known to many as the "eighth wonder of the world," in the first place.

"We are trying to inculcate in our people here that the old way of farming is still the best, despite the introduction of agricultural modernization," he said.

LACSON: Summoned to appear in a California county court on March 5, or else he would be subject to arrest and punishment for contempt of court. PDI PHOTO FILE PHOTO

BLANQUITA PELAEZ in San Francisco scores in her case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson filed in California. PDI PHOTO FILE

Judge orders Lacson to appear in US court

From page A1

furnished a copy of Pelaez's civil suit nor was he served summons properly.

Fortun said the same thing of the court's earlier order directing Lacson to pay $3 million in damages to Pelaez.

On Jan. 10, Judge Julie Conger, also of the Superior Court, ordered Lacson to pay $3,031,262 in damages to Blanquita H. Pelaez. He issued the default judgment after Lacson, former PNP chief, failed to answer the civil suit filed by Pelaez despite several summonses.

The documents, which the court ordered Lacson to present, included statements of his bank accounts in the last five years; list of real property which he or his wife Alice owned; registration of each vehicle he owned in the United States in the last five years; bookkeeping materials of businesses which Lacson owned or managed in the last five years, and all writings referring to payments, salaries, bonuses or other fees that are yet to be paid to him. (A statement of assets and liabilities filed by Lacson as a senator showed that he had a net worth of P21.10 million ($413,784) in 2001.)

Pelaez, 56, greeted the court's favorable rulings with relief.

"I felt that justice has been served. It's about time that I get justice," she said, recalling that she was given the run-around by the Philippine government and police officials while she was following up on the case in Manila years ago.

"There is justice after all. It just shows that nobody is above the law," she said in a phone interview.

Pelaez, manager of the B.H. Pelaez Enterprises and resident of Alameda County, sued Lacson and 30 other John Does in 2001 "for intentional interference with economic relationship, slander and emotional distress."

Smith and Wesson supplier

The case arose from the non-payment of 41,297 handcuffs, worth P15.7 million, which the PNP ordered from the Smith and Wesson Co. in December 1996. Pelaez worked as a supplier for the company.

Pelaez had charged that Lacson approached her in August 1999 and promised that he would approve the payment of the handcuffs if she supported his bid to become PNP chief.

Lacson, who served as PNP chief from 2000 until January 2001, had argued that paying Pelaez constituted graft. He said the handcuffs deal was a scam.

In December 2001, the Superior Court in Alameda County issued summons to Lacson, giving him 30 days to file a "typewritten response" to the civil case filed by Pelaez.

After he failed to reply, the court declared him in default in June 2002, but still sent him summons to contest the ruling. When it failed to receive any reply from him, the court issued the default judgment last week, according to Pelaez.

"It was a very fair case; everything was done in due process," she said.

Fortun explained why the court order could not be enforced in the Philippines.

"Before a US court could direct a Philippine national to appear before it, it must first observe the rules in the service of summons. The court did not observe those rules," he said in a phone interview. "The US court decision is invalid; it can't be enforced in the Philippines."

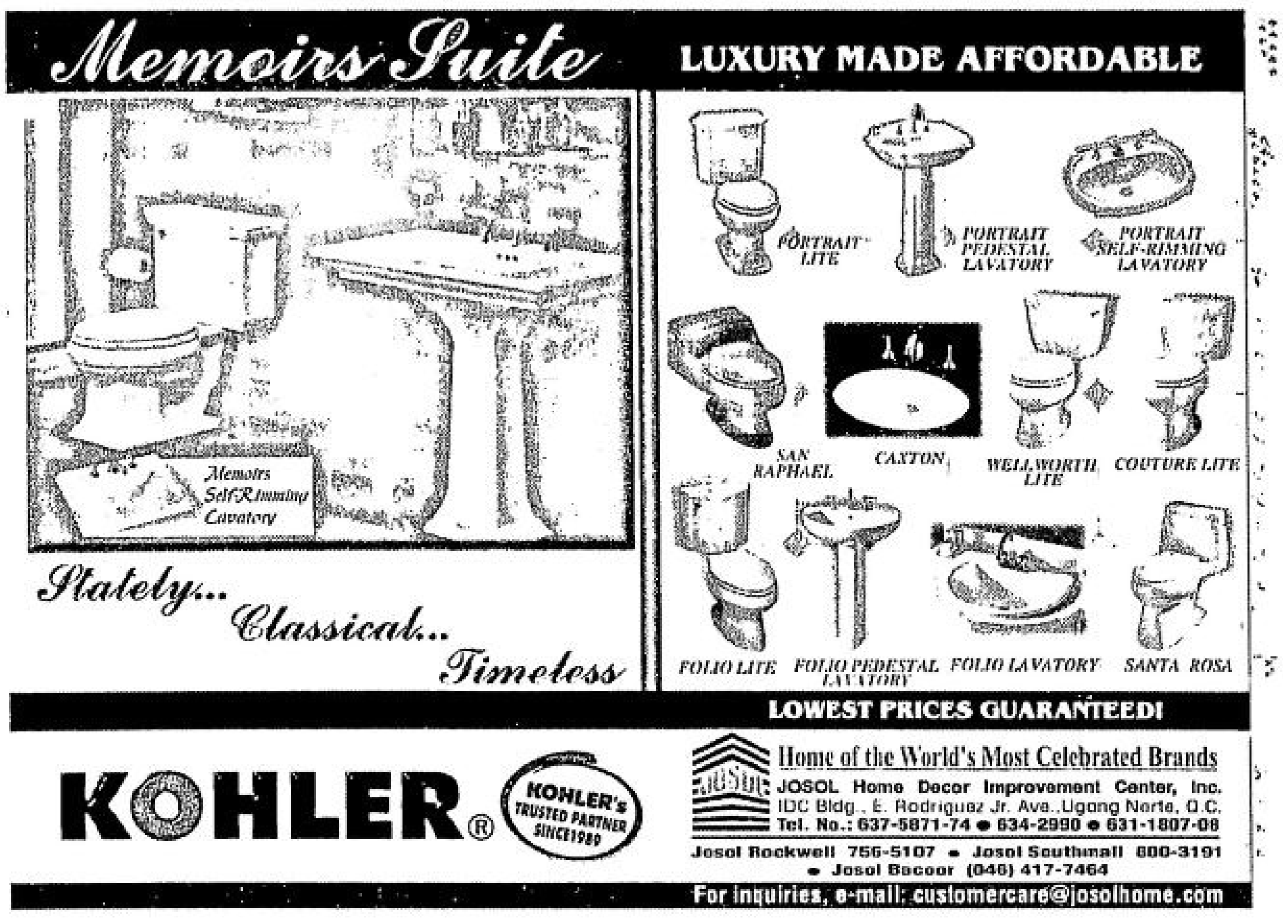
The Superior Court served summons on Lacson in January 2002, through the PNP, but this was illegal under the country's laws, Fortun pointed out.

The court should have instead asked a lower court to serve the summons on the senator, as provided for in court rules, he said.

Fortun said he wrote the Superior Court in August 2002 to inform it of the invalidity of the summonses, but to no avail.

Fortun said that Lacson was not thinking of taking any legal action until he received an official copy of the court's order and as long as this was served properly. His client, he added, was not also keen on appearing before the California court.

"They can cite him for contempt, but it will not affect Lacson. The invalid judgment emanated from an invalid process," he said.



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Velarde bans politicos on El Shaddai stage

From page A1

our weekly rallies," he said. "But when the election is near, that's the time they start appearing."

El Shaddai is known to vote as a bloc. With its reported eight million members here and abroad, it is a favorite campaign crowd for politicians from Presidents down to local officials.

Velarde has endorsed many a candidate—and delivered the crucial votes. The most prominent was Joseph Estrada, who went on to win the presidency and whom he subsequently served as spiritual adviser.

Recently he raised many eyebrows when he hailed President Macapagal-Arroyo, successor of the deposed Estrada, as one of the Philippines' great leaders and received her on stage at a prayer rally.

But those days are over, according to the man whom his flock calls "Brother Mike."

He said that in joining the multisectoral BPM, he wanted to send the message that it was time for the country's leaders to stop playing politics and buckle down to addressing the problems of poverty, joblessness and graft.

"I call on all Filipinos to make their own sacrifices for the common good," Velarde said, adding:

"We are too political. Everything we do is related or linked to politics."

He said, however, that he believed in the President's sincerity when she declared on Dec. 30 that she would not seek another term in 2004.

Velarde himself is rumored as planning to run for senator, or even president.

But he said Wednesday: "Personally, I have renounced all political ambitions."

El Shaddai spokesperson Mel Robles yesterday said the group had no hard and fast rules for its members.

Apart from leading pious lives and attending the regular prayer rallies, members are encouraged to give a 10-percent tithe, he said.

But the practice is "non-mandatory," and prospective members may choose to give the tithe to their parishes.

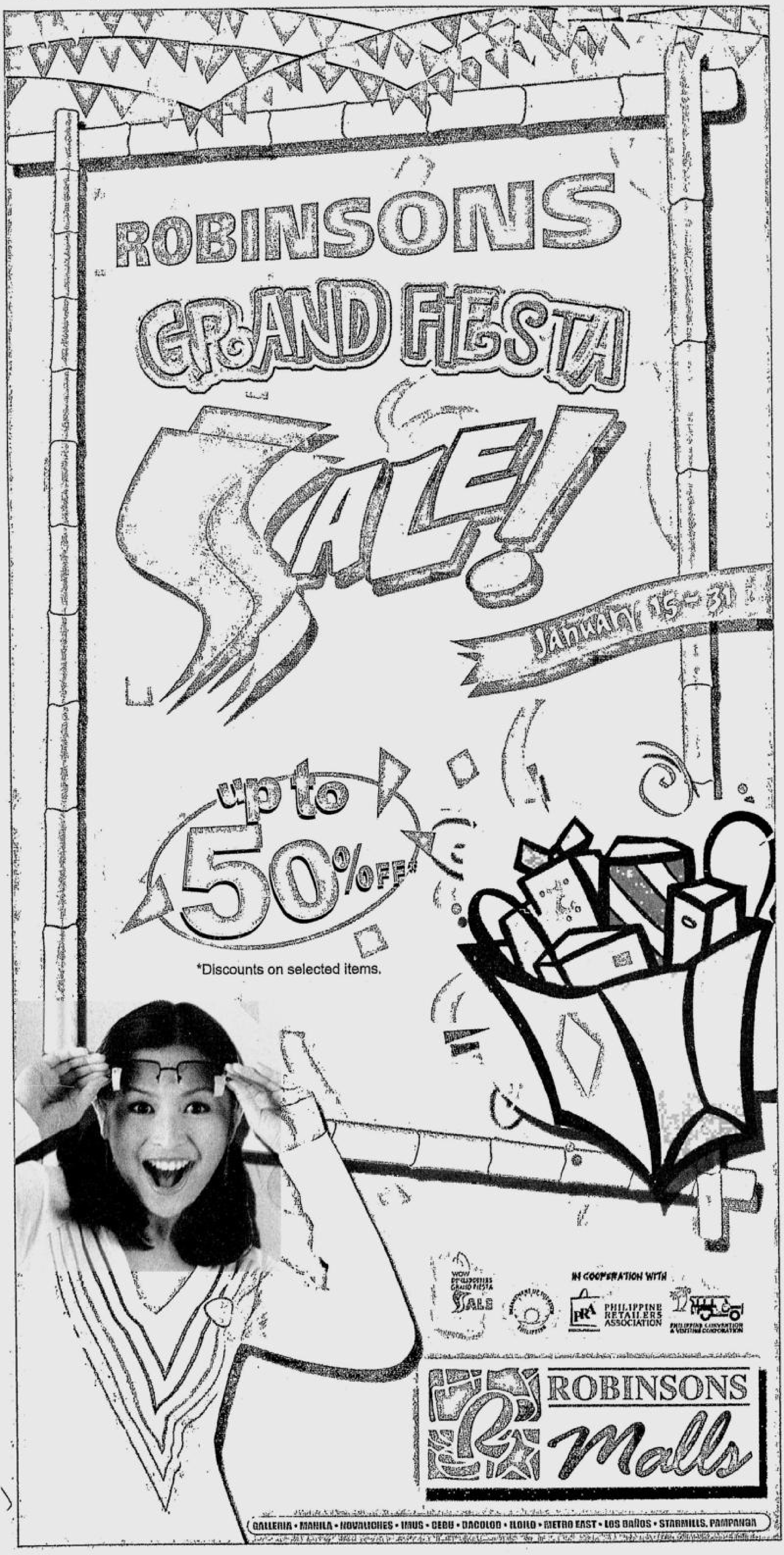
"You don't have to tithe with us," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Robles, however, said the matter of restricting the presence of politicians at El Shaddai assemblies was easier said than done.

"The Mass is open to everybody, and we cannot deny people the chance to attend the prayer rallies," he said. "People of different careers and orientations are welcome."

CHARISMATIC leader of El Shaddai, Mike Velarde, wears his trademark colorful plaid blazer before his millions of devotees during his weekly crusades.

PDI PHOTO FILE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Ex-Navy captain in road rage slay hunted by cops

From page A1

The whereabouts of Tangan, now operations manager of the Navy Golf Club at Fort Bonifacio, are unknown. But his lawyer, Carnell Valdez of the Singson, Valdez and Associates law office, said he was not in hiding and would turn himself in on or before Jan. 20.

"He's ready to surrender," Valdez told the INQUIRER yesterday in a phone interview. "There is nothing conditional about his surrender. We are just arranging it with the proper authorities."

Valdez also said he had informed Buenaventura Miranda, lawyer for the Miranda family, of the time frame of his client's surrender.

Tangan was chief of the Naval Intelligence Unit when he shot and killed Miranda on Roxas Boulevard on Dec. 1, 1984. He was then 42 and Miranda, 29.

Miranda, a member of the family that owns the Miranda chain of bookstores, left a wife and a daughter then 3 months old.

Valdez refused to comment when asked where his client was.

"We are working out the details to ensure an orderly, peaceful and dignified surrender," Valdez said, adding that Tangan needed time to wrap up his affairs.

Valdez also said Tangan would not resist arrest if authorities find him before his voluntary surrender.

The lawyer added that if Tangan intended to flee, he would have done so years ago.

Valdez lamented that his client had to serve a minimum of six years in prison.

"In effect, he more than served his original sentence when he was under preventive detention for four years," Valdez said. "But by a quirk of fate, in his interest to get a full acquittal, the Supreme Court ruled for him to serve a higher penalty. It's like we bought a stone and hit our heads with it."

How it happened

This is how the killing transpired, according to court records:

Miranda, with his uncle Manuel, was driving on the southbound lane of Roxas Boulevard when he swerved his car to avoid firecrackers thrown his way.

In doing so he cut into the path of Tangan's car, to the annoyance of the Navy officer who sounded his horn several times.

Miranda slowed down to let Tangan pass. Tangan overtook Miranda, got in front of him, and then reduced speed.

Subsequent attempts of Miranda to overtake Tangan proved futile.

Nearing Airport Road, Tangan slowed down preparatory to making a U-turn, Miranda passed Tangan, pulled over and, with his uncle, got out of the car.

Miranda approached Tangan shouting expletives. The Navy officer did the same.

After a heated exchange, Tangan went to his car, took out a .38 cal. pistol and pointed it variously at Miranda and his uncle.

Witnesses said Tangan then fired the gun, hitting Miranda in the stomach. The witnesses took Miranda to a hospital, but he died on the way.

Tangan ran away after the shooting, pursued by a group of people. He ran into a police officer who allowed him to get inside the patrol car. But Miranda's uncle, who joined the pursuit, informed the police officer that Tangan had just shot his nephew.

In his defense, Tangan said that in the process of grappling with Miranda and his uncle for possession of the gun, it fell on the ground, went off and hit Miranda.

But in its decision, the Supreme Court said the physical evidence belied Tangan's version of the shooting.

The tribunal said: "The medical examiner testified that the distance between the muzzle of the gun and the target was about two inches but definitely not more than three inches. Based on the point of exit and trajectory transit of the wound, the victim and the alleged assailant were facing each other when the shot was made and the position of the gun was almost perpendicular when fired. These findings disprove Tangan's claim of accidental shooting. A revolver is not prone to accidental firing because of the nature of its mechanism, unless it was uncocked, then considerable pressure had to be applied on the trigger to fire [it]."

Homicide

Tangan was charged with homicide through the use of a licensed firearm and illegal possession of an unlicensed firearm.

A lower court convicted him of homicide but acquitted him of illegal possession of an unlicensed firearm. He was sentenced to a maximum of two years and four months in prison.

He took the case to the Court of Appeals, but it upheld the conviction and increased the civil indemnity that he had to pay Miranda's heirs.

When Tangan was arrested, he was put under preventive detention for four years at Fort Bonifacio in the custody of his commandants in the Naval Intelligence Group. He was released in 1988 after being acquitted of the illegal possession charge, and posted bail while the homicide conviction was being appealed.

Lawyer Valdez said Tangan sought early retirement and was appointed operations manager of the Navy Golf Club in 1993.

Tangan also filed an appeal with the Supreme Court. But when the tribunal issued its decision, his sentence was raised to a minimum of six years and one day and a maximum of 14 years, eight months and one day.

He was also ordered to pay Miranda's heirs P50,000 in civil indemnity, P50,000 in moral damages, P42,000 for funeral and burial expenses and P5,000 in attorney's fees.

In its decision, the Supreme Court said Tangan was not sufficiently provoked to use self-defense as an excuse for shooting Miranda.

Tangan filed a motion for reconsideration, but the Supreme Court rejected it and ruled that its decision was final.

SUERTRES 8 1 1
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SUPERLOTTO 6/49
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SPORTS
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Carter not ready to play

TORONTO—Vince Carter is not ready to play yet, and there is no timetable for his return to the Toronto Raptors' lineup. Carter received a second opinion on his injured right knee from orthopedic surgeon James Andrews, who agreed the star guard is not healthy enough to play.

WEALTHIEST AMONG THE CATCH

Adducul tops 'em all with ₱12.7M

By June Navarro

ROMEL Adducul, so far the most imposing big man to come out of the Draft, suddenly became the wealthiest rookie yesterday after the 2001 MBA MVP signed a four-year, multi-million contract with the Barangay Ginebra Kings.

Picked second overall in the Draft, the 6-foot-6 Adducul inked a P12.7-million deal with the Kings, a pact way above the contract landed by playmaker Mike Cortez, this year's top rookie pick.

The 6-foot-flat Cortez signed a three-year deal worth P8.7 million with the Alaska Aces the other day.

"Secondary na lang sa mga concerns ko ang kontrata. Ang importante ay ang makapaglaro ako sa PBA. Matagal ko nang pinapangarap ito. (The money's not the real thing, it's my dream to play in the PBA that thrills me)," said the 26-year-old Adducul, one of the chief architects of the San Sebastian Stags' "five-peat" dynasty in the mid-90s.

Team insiders said Adducul would receive the maximum rookie salary of P150,000 on his first year and get a 50-percent wage increase in the next two years.

Adducul's basic salary on the fourth and final year will be pegged at P350,000, the maximum allowable salary for veteran players under salary cap rules.

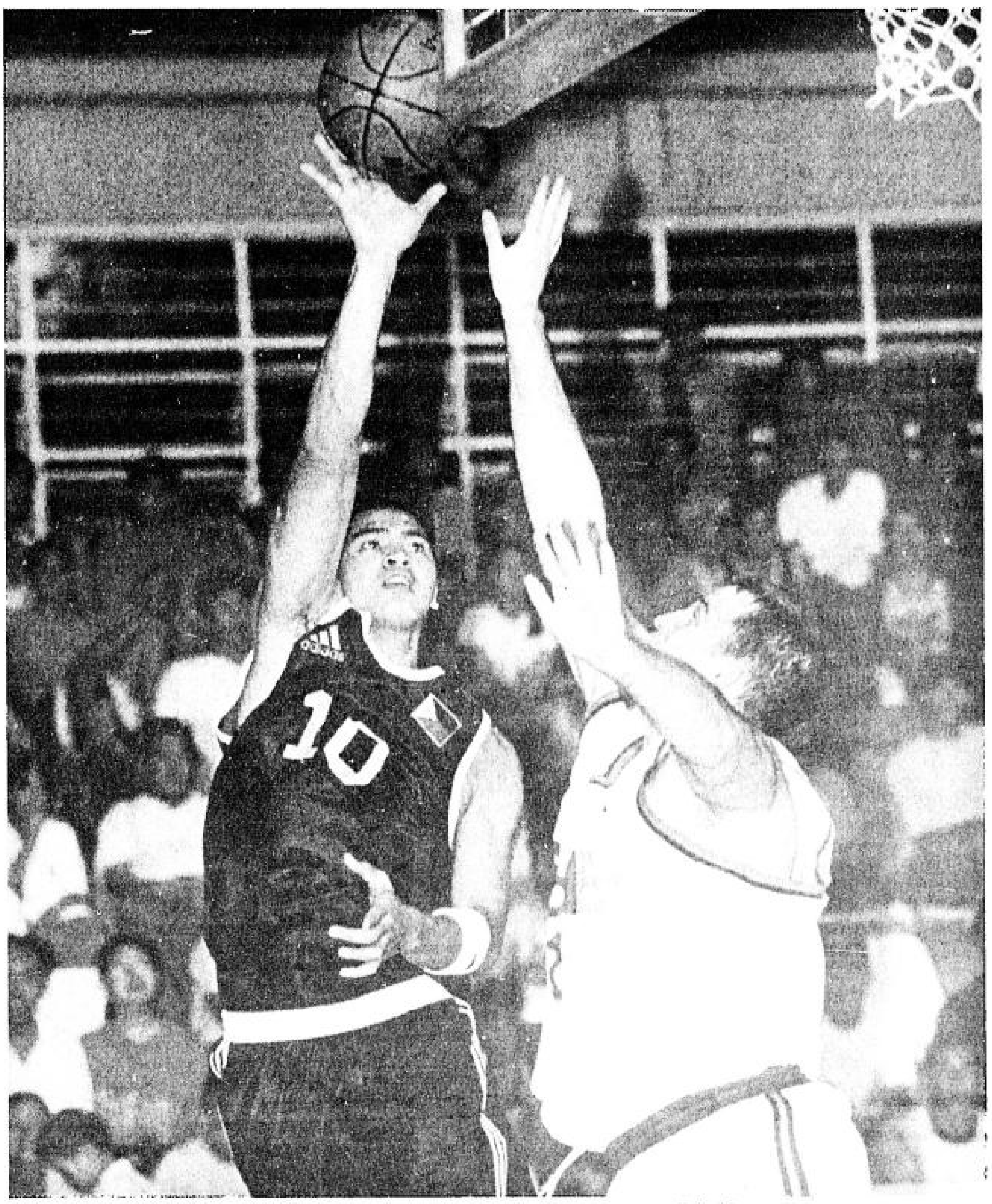
League pundits, however, believe Adducul is worth more than what he would get with the Kings.

As a PBA rookie who saw action for the now-defunct MBA, Adducul could go over the rookie cap and is even more than qualified to receive the maximum wage of P350,000.

"But as I pointed out, it is difficult to get a contract more lucrative than what Romel got, what with the smorgasbord of players trying to bring their act to the PBA," said player-agent Ed Ponceja, Adducul's manager.

Dozens of veteran players have already been released by their mother teams either because the cagers couldn't fit the team salary cap or were chosen over the more cheaper rookies.

Meanwhile, Rodney Santos inked a two-year pact with the Purefoods Hotdogs, the squad where the 5-foot-11 off-guard began his PBA career.



ADDUCUL (No. 10): The man to watch in the coming PBA season that starts on Feb. 23.

PDI PHOTO

NBN 4 deflects Alaska, TNT

By June Navarro

THE PBA Board of Governors yesterday honored the NBN-4's Letter of Credit but not after stiff resistance from Alaska and Talk N' Text.

Alaska team owner Wilfred Uytengsu and Talk N' Text governor Ricky Vargas questioned its viability as both raised fears of non-payment on the part of Manila Bank, the bank which issued the LC.

"It forced us to bend over backwards too much. I have nothing against Manila Bank but it's not in the list of authorized banks. And besides, it's not a commercial bank. We could have gone to a rural bank instead," Vargas told the INQUIRER.

Vargas said it is "the integrity of the board that is at stake here," pointing out that NBN-4 should have been defaulted for failing to meet the deadline four times and securing the LC from an unauthorized bank.

Vengeful Compton keys Batangas win

GAMES TOMORROW *(Pasig Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs LBC
4 p.m.—Dazz vs Blu Detergent

By Dennis U. Eroa

WITH Alex Compton back to his usual deadly shooting form, LBC-Batangas was back in business.

Two days after getting beaten by 40 points, LBC-Batangas came back strong, downing ICTSI-La Salle, 91-84, to enter the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

Compton, whose two-point performance less to LBC's 79-39 humiliation on Monday, exacted revenge as he scattered 31 points, including six triples.

Compton's vengeful performance inspired his teammates.

Al Magpayo, Froilan Baguion and Ron Capati also finished in double figures as the Blades beat the Archers with fluid ball movements and a solid defense.

"It's a team effort," said Compton, whose clutch hits in the dying seconds stopped ICTSI's uprisings in the final half.

Rob Johnson's triple gave ICTSI a chance, 85-81, 1:29 remaining, but pro-bound Reynell Hugnatan missed a hook shot which spelled doom for the Archers.

Capati and Ralph Rivera next sank four free throws as the Blades arranged a semifinals meeting with Welcoat on Saturday at the Pasig Sports Center.

"We cannot beat Welcoat talent for talent. We need to use our system against such a strong team," said LBC mentor Nash Racela.

Welcoat enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage over LBC.

Mark Cardona almost single-handedly battled LBC for most of the way, but he fouled out with 3:53 remaining after being tagged with a questionable offensive foul.

He scored 27 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Scores:

LBC 91—Compton 31, Magpayo 20, Capati 15, Baguion 12, Rivera 5, Cuevas 4, De Castro 2, Uy 2, Roldan 0, Manabat 0, Reguera 0.

ICTSI 84—Cardona 27, Johnson 13, Yap 12, Yeo 7, Hugnatan 5, Ferrer 5, Sta. Maria 4, Dacia 4, Franco 4, Uy 3.

Quarters: 22-17, 51-38, 69-59, 91-84

Dumaguete hosts Bear Brand kitefest Feb. 9

THE 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest, the country's largest and longest running kite-flying event, will celebrate more than a decade of wholesome, family-oriented fun and excitement with regional competitions to be held in 10 key cities.

. The kickoff competition will take place in Dumaguete City on Feb. 9.

Thousands of kite-flying enthusiasts from all over the country are expected to participate in the much-awaited kite festival, organized annually since 1991 by Nestle Philippines Inc., maker of Bear Brand Milk.

The event will offer competitions for the various categories of participants: the elementary students, aged 6 to 12, and the high school students, aged 13 to 16, can join in the flat kite division (2D or two-faced kites in any shape); college students, aged 17 to 21, and adults, aged 22 and above can join in the geometric kites (3D kites with basic shapes, string, combination, or train kites), and figure kites (3D kites with themese and realistic shapes) divisions.

The first leg of the 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest in Dumaguete City will feature contestants from Regions 6 to 8.

Other key cities where Kitefest regional legs will be held are Baguio City; San Fernando City; Laoag; Puerto Princesa; Manila for residents of Regions 1 to 5; CAR and NCR; Cagayan de Oro; and Davao City for residents of Regions 9 to 13.

Cash prizes, trophies and Nestle gift packs await winners of the Kitefest in each leg. Special prizes will also be given to the Super Kite or the biggest flying kite and the Saranggola ni Bear Brand or the best flying kite during the free flying period.

With the promise of a grander Bear Brand Kitefest, Nestle offers new and exciting special prizes for its participants per leg: the Sarangola ng Barangay, open to all barangays of the province or city where each leg will be held, with at least 10 members registered in one geometric shape; the Theme Kite or the best flying kite to represent the province or city; the Favorite of the Crowd or the kite with the most audience impact; and the Family Spotting award, where four families spotted on site will have a chance to experience flying a kite.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO-
BY MR. 999

- Race 1--1. Diva 2. King Fisher 3. Adrenalin
- Race 2--1. Great Hill 2. Jackpot 3. Hinobaan's Pride 4. Claro Di Ba 5. Test Run
- Race 3--1. Playing With Fire 2. Proud Spirit 3. Red Bells 4. Cherry Lane
- Race 4--1. Jacuzzi Mate/Hazit Made 2. Dulce My Love 3. Hale and Hearty 4. Sovereign Dancer
- Race 5--1. Morning After 2. Ginger Spice 3. Shuttle's Magic
- Race 6--1. Bronte 2. Native Prince 3. Uncle Buck 4. Speed Rich 5. Mr. Speaker 6. Private Pedro
- Race 7--1. D'Optician 2. Jhelen 3. Love Triangle 4. Gallop for Gold 5. Royal Bet
- Race 8--1. Worth Ur While 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Hezabellagio
- Race 9--1. Pay Check 2. Annihilator 3. Divine Diva 4. Notable 5. College Gem 6. Schwarzenegger

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Orlando vs Washington, 8:30 a.m. (r - 9:30 p.m.), Star Sports, Seattle vs Utah, 11 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Solar Sports
World Pro Basketball Challenge, 5:30 p.m. (r), ESPN
NBA Inside Stuff, 9 p.m., Star Sports
GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour, 6 p.m., Star Sports
TENNIS: Hyundai Hopman Cup XV, 1 p.m. (r), Star Sports
Australian Open, 2 p.m., Solar Sports
Best of Wimbledon 2002, 4 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Pinoy racers to see action in United Arab Emirates

THE NATIONAL Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa) is all set to pull off a "first" in local motorsports when it fields a powerhouse four-man Philippine contingent in the opening round of the 2003 FIM (Federation International de Motocyclisme) Motocross Continental Championships set in Umm Al Quwain, United Arab Emirates on Jan. 24.

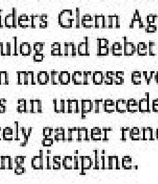
Namssa is the sole FIM-sanctioned institution given the authority to oversee the proper and safe conduct of motorcycle sports in the Philippines. It is also affiliated with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) and the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and is duly recognized and endorsed by the House of Representatives for its altruistic role of sponsor/benefactor of numerous Philippine contingents in international motorcycling events in recent years.

Stephan "Macky" Carapiet, the FIM UAM Vice President & Motocross & Enduro Commission President and Project Director of FIM Asia, will join the riders in the meet.

Namssa president Ken Falco and Vice President Arthur Valdes have high hopes for this Dream Team. Namssa's move to simultaneously send multi-titled riders Glenn Aguilar, Ernie Leongson, Jovie Saulog and Bebet de la Cruz to the premier Asian motocross event is viewed by enthusiasts as an unprecedented action which will definitely garner renewed interest in the motorcycling discipline.

The come on then was but a glass of 'halo-halo'

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

HOW huge is P8 million, P12 million? Can you earn those in three years, four years?

Easily. That is, if you are a basketball player in the mold of an Enrico Villanueva, a Mike Cortez or a Romel Adducul.

Some 10 years or so ago, the three were barely into their teens (Mike was not even 12, I guess). Today, they have become instant millionaires.

As PBA rookies, Enrico will earn P8.1 million in three years, Mike P8.7 million in three years, and Romel P12.7 million in four years.

This year, each one of them will take home a monthly pay of P150,000. Next year, that will increase to P225,000 a month. In 2005, that's going to be not lower than P300,000. Of the three, only Romel will hit P300,000-plus in 2006---that is, if his luck holds.

Life's unfair?

I can also shoot either a free throw or a three-point shot with telling consistency. I can stick to my guard like a leech. I can rebound like the Dennis Rodman of some years back.

But that was ages ago. And I did those in the MBA (Mangatarem Basketball Association), a nondescript league born in the boondocks of Pangasinan. The PBA wasn't around yet then. In short, like the legendary Caloy Loyzaga, I was ahead of my time. Listen to Caloy: "In my time, a pair of brand-new basketball shoes was more than enough lure for one to aspire for a slot in the national team."

Times, they are a-changin'.

The only come on offered to us then if we ever got into an MBA team was a glass of *halo-halo*, courtesy of the team manager. If the manager would try to play it cute, he'd order an ice cream topping for the ***halo-halo***.

Will it appease us a little if many of Makati's supposed top executives don't even earn that much, or even come close to those figures? Or we consider that even President Macapagal-Arroyo does not earn P100,000 a month as this country's Chief Executive?

As Rod Stewart sang it: "Some guys have all the luck."

Is writing a sports column not as worthy a job as playing basketball so that it's inherently a low-paying job?

Hey, their monthly take is miles away from mine---and that does not include bonuses the three cagers earn each time their teams win a game, a semifinal slot, a championship berth and, finally, the PBA crown.

I can't say I'm in the wrong profession because, as I said, I was ahead of my time. Basketball wasn't yet big deal then when I was a teener, and even when I was out of my teens. What was big deal then was taking up medicine; finishing it and next passing the board was almost a passport to a trip to America and, with a little luck, stay put there and earn the Almighty Dollar to buy you Cadillacs and stately homes in the suburbs of New York, if not Los Angeles.

"This is the best thing that ever happened to Enrico," said one close to Villanueva, the Blue Eagle who keyed Ateneo's victory in the last UAAP championship. "The good boy that he has always been, Enrico promised to share his bounty to his parents, and even to his siblings."

Mike Cortez must also be still walking in dreamland. Only a while back, the Fil-Am was but an ordinary banana in America, the adopted home of his parents.

And Romel Adducul? Well, he's got it all planned out. Seemingly, he has a manager who knows the ropes of the game; he gave his ward the luxury of a one-year respite from the game after Romel's league, the MBA, folded up last year.

Me? I'll just go on writing. The labor of love knows not the color of money.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Williams, Clijsters, Safin advance

MELBOURNE, Australia—Serena Williams was back in "Serena slam" form Thursday.

After nearly losing her opener, Williams advanced to the Australian Open's third round with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over Belgian Els Callens, who gave the world's No. 1 player a tough challenge at Wimbledon last year.

Williams now is five matches away from becoming the reigning champion of all four major tournaments.

Her potential semifinal opponent, No. 4 Kim Clijsters, advanced with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Hungary's Petra Mandula in 33 minutes. It was the first perfect scoreline of the tournament.

Meanwhile, Czech player Radek Stepanek, who climbed from 547th to 63rd in the rankings last year, knocked out three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten, who never has advanced beyond the second round in the Australian Open. Stepanek won 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in 3 hours, 47 minutes.

Kuerten, seeded 30th, became the 13th casualty among the 32 seeded men. The top 10, however, is missing only No. 5 Carlos Moya, a 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 loser to American Mardy Fish on Wednesday night.

Third-seeded Marat Safin, the 2000 US Open champion and last year's Australian runner-up, advanced by beating France's Albert Montanes 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. No. 6 Roger Federer defeated Germany's Lars Burgsmuller 6-3, 6-0, 6-3.

No. 9 Andy Roddick, being counted on as a successor to Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi in American tennis, overpowered Romania's Adrian Voinea 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Last year, an injury on the eve of the Australian Open ruined Williams' chance for a true Grand Slam–winning all four majors in the same calendar year. She went on to beat sister Venus Williams in the finals at the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

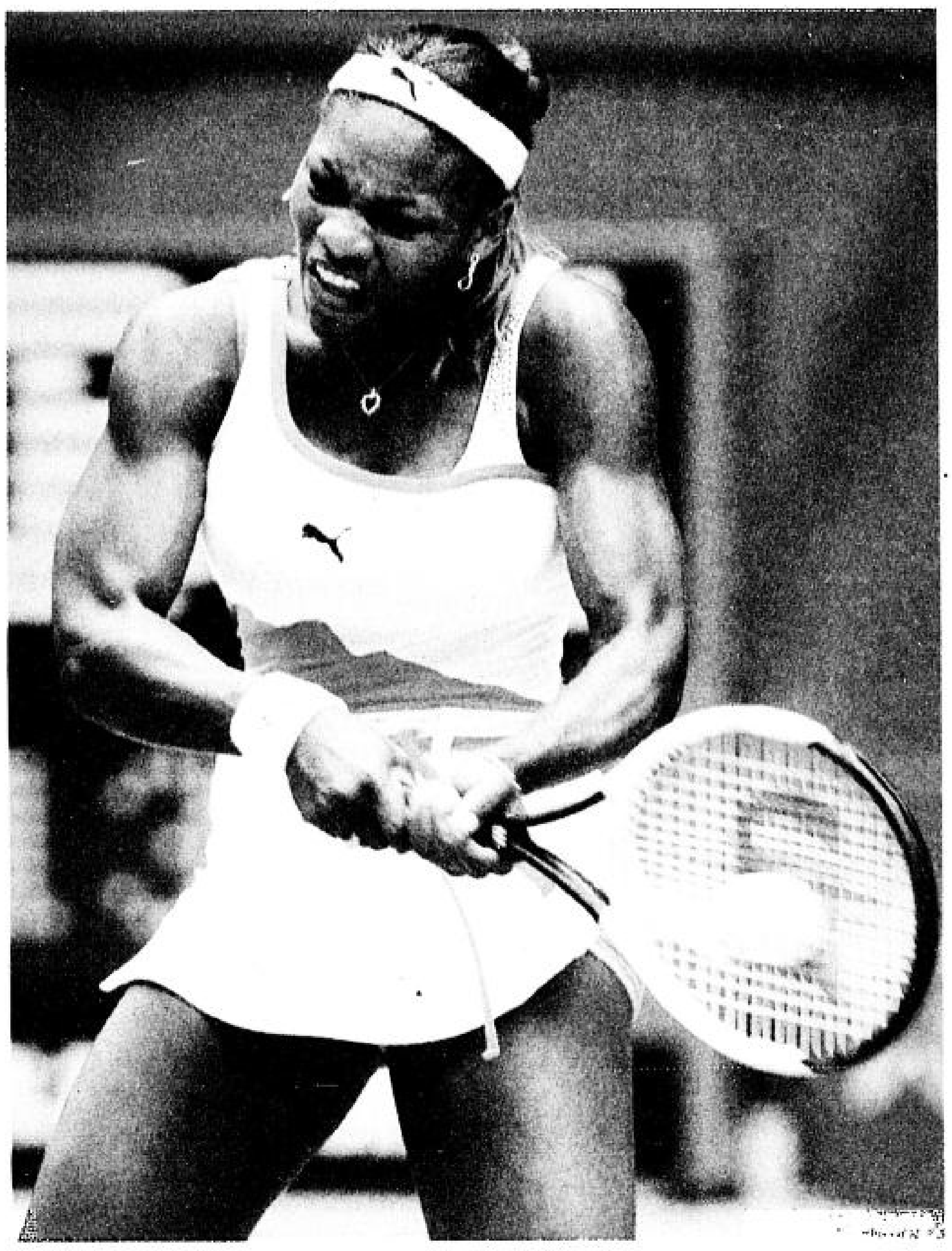
A rash of errors left Williams on the verge of defeat before she rallied to edge France's Emilie Loit on Tuesday. This time, she said she was inspired by Venus' 6-3, 6-0 victory over Ansley Cargill the previous night.

"She played a great match," Serena said of her sister. "I was motivated after watching her, thinking, `OK, she wants to be No. 1 again.'"

Serena faced two break points in her first service game, but she then broke Callens at 15 in the fifth game by hitting winners or forcing errors. Callens, ranked 66th, managed to hold serve twice more in the first set but had no answer for Williams' power.

Williams needed two tiebreakers to beat her in the third round at Wimbledon.

In the opener here, she acknowledged being "a little too lackadaisical" against Loit. She vented her frustration in that match with an audible obscenity, for which she was fined $1,500 on Thursday. *AP*



WILLIAMS slams a shot against Callens. Williams won, 6-4, 6-0. AFP

No more top-level tennis for Hingis

MELBOURNE, Australia—Martina Hingis, winner of five Grand Slam singles titles, isn't planning her return to the pro tennis tour.

HINGIS

But that doesn't mean the former No. 1 is quitting, her management company and WTA Tour officials said Thursday.

Hingis was quoted saying she might never play another competitive match because of ankle injuries. She had surgery on her right ankle in October 2001 and on her left ankle in May.

"It is quite possible that I will never play top-level tennis again, because my feet don't allow it," the 22-year-old Hingis told the Swiss news agency Sport Information.

However, Hingis' management company, Octagon, said a retirement announcement wasn't immediately pending.

"I definitely wouldn't call it an official retirement at this stage but she's definitely not saying as to when she's going to be coming back," Lisa Chaffey, an Octagon representative in Australia, told The Associated Press.

After the second operation, Hingis withdrew from the French Open and Wimbledon–the first majors she missed since turning pro in 1994. She returned to the tour in August, then went back into rehab in October.

"I am not even thinking of a comeback," she said in an interview published Wednesday.

WTA officials, in Melbourne for the Australian Open, said they'd been assured by Hingis' agents that their Swiss client hadn't retired. Hingis had figured in the last six Australian Open finals, winning from 1997-99 and losing the last three.

"She's not going to come back before she's really ready to come back," Chaffey said. "You never know what's going to happen. It might be six months, it might be a year, it might be a year and a half.

"It might be a situation say as with (Jennifer) Capriati, where she takes an extended time off and we see her back on the court."

After winning an Olympic gold medal at Barcelona in 1992, Capriati took time out from tennis before returning and winning her first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open in 2001.

Chaffey said Hingis probably regretted not taking enough time for rehabilitation after her first operation. *AP*

Iverson helps 76ers snap 6-game slump

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson scored 34 points, including five free throws in the final minute Wednesday, to help the Philadelphia 76ers snap a six-game losing streak with a 108-107 victory in the NBA over the New Jersey Nets.

Keith Van Horn scored 16 points in his first game against his old team, while Eric Snow added 16 points and eight assists for Philadelphia.

Lucious Harris scored a season-high 26 points, Kenyon Martin had 24 and a career-high 16 rebounds, and Richard Jefferson added 20 for Atlantic Division-leading New Jersey, which had won 10 of 11.

Jason Kidd had a season-high 16 assists, but missed 17 of 21 shots and finished with just nine points.

Lakers 90, Hornets 82

In New Orleans, Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and had 11 rebounds, while Shaquille O'Neal scored 10 of his 23 points in the final period to lead the Los Angeles Lakers over New Orleans.

O'Neal also had 11 rebounds for Los Angeles, which held New Orleans without a field goal for the last 8:20 to win its fifth straight and register its fifth road victory of the season.

Baron Davis, back in the lineup for the first time in six games for New Orleans, scored 20, including four 3-pointers, but couldn't get a basket in the fourth quarter as the Hornets lost their fifth consecutive game.

Bucks 99, Raptors 87

In Toronto, Sam Cassell scored 19 points as Milwaukee downed Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Ray Allen and Toni Kukoc each added 15 points for the Bucks, who hadn't won four in successive games since an eight-game run from Jan. 8-21, 2002.

The Raptors dressed the NBA minimum eight players. All-Star Vince Carter missed his 19th straight game with a strained right knee. Toronto has lost 13 of 15.

In Indianapolis, Brad Miller scored 21 points and Ron Artest had 18 as the Pacers defeated Miami for their fifth consecutive win.

The Pacers (28-10) are off to the best start in their NBA history and improved to a league-best 17-1 at home.

Artest scored 11 of his points in the third quarter to help the Pacers blow the game open.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Milwaukee 99, Toronto 87; Boston 86, Atlanta 66; Indiana 104, Miami 81; Philadelphia 108, New Jersey 107; LA Lakers 90, New Orleans 82; Sacramento 123, Dallas 94; Houston 102, Phoenix 96 ; Utah 92, Denver 81; Portland 100, Memphis 92; Minnesota 95, LA Clippers 64; Golden State 108, Cleveland 80. *AP*

Serena swears, fined

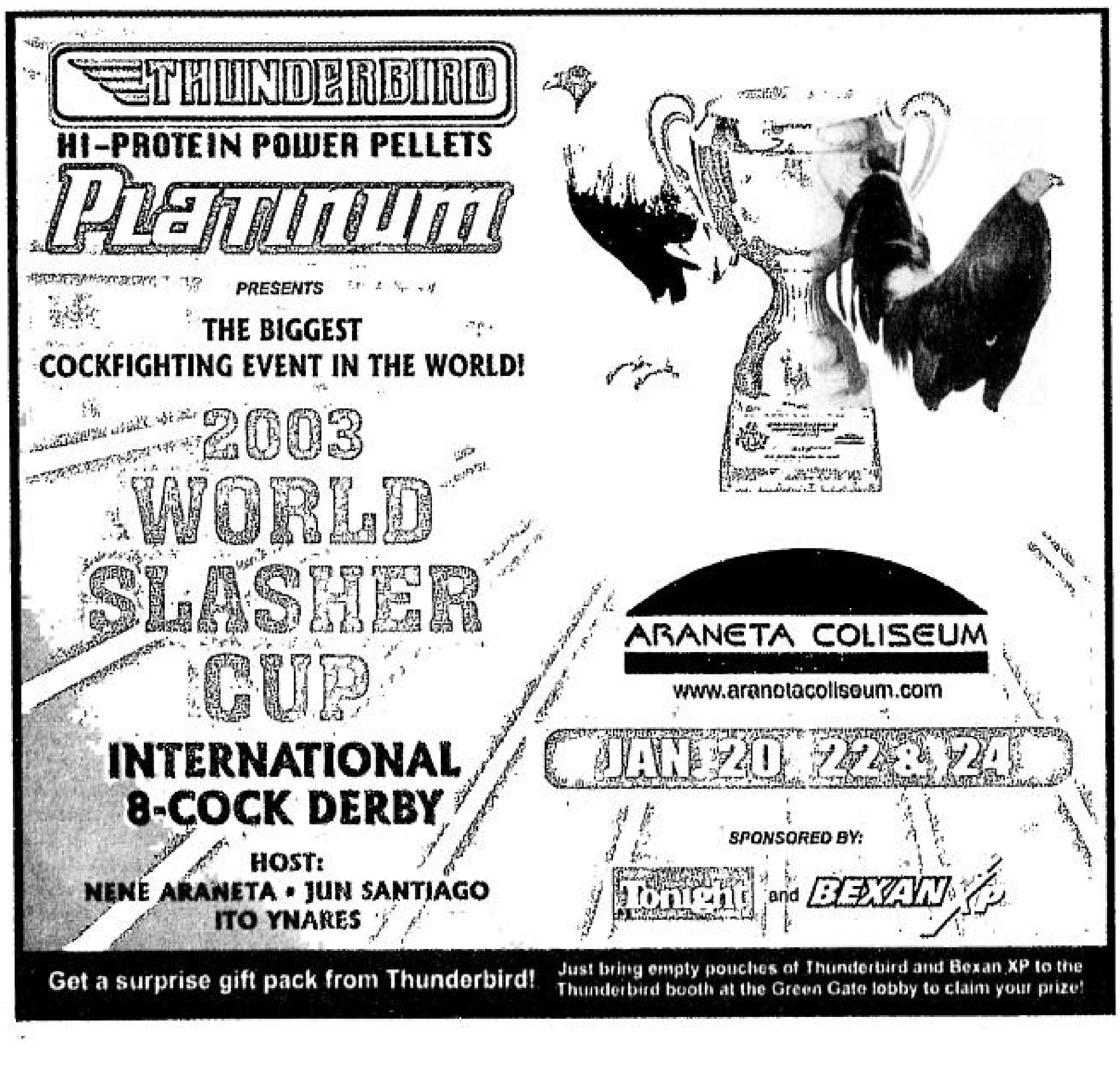
MELBOURNE—Serena Williams has been fined US$1,500 for swearing during her first round match at the Australian Open, tennis officials said on Thursday.

The world number one was fined for breaching the sport's strict rules on player behavior for an "audible obscenity" during her win over Frenchwoman Emilie Loit.

Loit took the first set and was three points away from victory when the American's frustrations boiled over and she let fly with a colorful outburst that earned her an immediate warning from match officials.

Williams's actions were reported to the International Tennis Federation's disciplinary committee, who issued the penalty. *Reuters*

HOUSTON's Yao Ming shoots over Phoenix Suns' Amare Stoudemire. Yao scored 11 points in the Rockets' 102-96 win. AP



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Oracle posts 1st win

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—It may be a series after all.

Trailing 3-0 in the best-of-nine America's Cup final and looking down and out after a demoralizing loss Wednesday, Oracle turned the tables on Switzerland's Alinghi for its first win of the series Thursday.

The San Francisco boat sailed through shifting, tricky winds for a 2-minute, 13-second win that saw it overpower Alinghi by more than 90 seconds on two legs of the six-leg race.

The first came in the topsy-turvy second leg when 100-meter leads changed hands twice. Oracle moved about a kilometer away from Alinghi on the leg, and when it did, a favorable wind shift moved it far ahead of Alinghi.

After trailing by 38 seconds at the first mark, Oracle led the second by 56 seconds–an amazing turnaround of 1:34.

With Oracle ahead at the halfway point of the 18.5-nautical-mile race, all Alinghi could do was hope for more shifting winds.

"If it's an even breeze, we're dead," Alinghi strategist Jochen Schuemann was heard to say on his onboard television microphone. But the winds stayed fairly steady for the last part of the race and Oracle's lead was never threatened. *AP*

Yanks may open in Japan

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona—New York's star Japanese signing, Hideki Matsui, may yet open the 2004 season in Japan–along with the entire Yankees.

The Yankees have been asked by the baseball commissioner's office whether they would consider playing their 2004 opener in Japan, a baseball official said Wednesday on the condition he not be identified.

New York is considering the idea, which is still in the preliminary stage, the official said. No opponents have yet been discussed.

The New York Mets and the Chicago Cubs began the 2000 season with a two-game series in the Tokyo Dome, the first major league games played outside North America.

Baseball is starting its season in Japan for the second time this year, with Oakland and Seattle playing a two-game series in Tokyo on March 25-26. *AP*

Niners coach sacked

SAN FRANCISCO—Steve Mariucci was fired as head coach of the San Francisco 49ers Wednesday over "philosophical differences" with owner John York on how the team should be run.

Mariucci's sacking came just three days after the 49ers were crushed 31-6 by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an NFC divisional playoff game.

In six seasons with the 49ers, Mariucci, who had one year remaining on his contract, guided his team into the postseason four times while compiling a record of 58-39.

The Niners finished this season with an 11-7 record, capturing the NFC West title. *AP*

La Salle golf at Southwoods

THE LA SALLE Greenhills Alumni Association presents the "11th Drive For A Cause" golf tournament on Jan. 31 at the Southwoods Legends.

Tournament Chairman Peng Perez de Tagle said proceeds will go to the Adult Night High School of the La Salle Brothers. Tee-off time is from 6:30 – 9 a.m.

The annual all-La Salle golf tournament will be hosted by LSGH High School Class 1978, silver jubilarians for this year's grand homecoming.

Major sponsors are Asian Terminal Inc., CAP Philippines, FE Zuellig, Fernandina 88 Suites, ICTSI, Nestle Philippines Inc., RFM Corporation, Roche Philippines, Smart Communications, San Miguel Beer, Coca-Cola, Ginebra San Miguel, Johnnie Walker Green Label, Union Bank Visa, Wendy's Hamburger and Wilson Sports.

"Show Me You're Verde" is the title of this year's homecoming, which will be held on Feb. 1 at the La Salle Greenhills campus along Ortigas Avenue.

LSGH high school batches 1968, 1973, 1983, 1988, 1993 and 1999 are co-hosting the affair.

For more information, please call 721-2729, 726-6339 and look for Pemcy or Ludy.

25 COUNTRIES JOINING

RP hosting w'lifting congress

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES will host 25 other countries when the Asian Weightlifting Federation holds its constitutional and electoral congress on Feb. 21-22 at the Heritage Hotel.

This was announced by Philippine Weightlifting Association president, Rep. Monico Puentevella, who is also set to preside over the sensitive meeting among representatives of weightlifting associations in Asia.

IWF president, Dr. Tamas Ajan of Bulgaria, will also fly into the country to oversee the event.

Puentevella said hosting the event is a good start to establish connections with other federations in the region which is vital for the success of the Filipino weightlifters.

"Our long-term goal is to be a weighlifting power in Asia," said Puentevella. "We do that by exposing our athletes to Asian competitors, and this could be a start because I'm sure we'll host top-level competitions after this."

The convention was spurred by conflicts among the leaders of the Asian federation and their differences with the international federation bosses themselves.

So far, 18 countries have already confirmed participation in the convention which will draft a new AWF constitution that would suit the Asians better.

PUENTEVELLA

DLSU receives ₱50 million from an alumnus

IN ONE of the biggest single donation by an alumnus, Enrique Razon Jr. (BS BA '80) donated P50 million recently to De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M).

In a statement, La Salle said the donation was for the university's sports development, which includes funds for scholarships and improvement of physical facilities. The funds were released starting Jan. 15.

Razon is the head of the International Container Terminal Services Inc. and a generous sponsor of the ICTSI-La Salle basketball team in the Philippine Basketball League.

DLSU System President Brother Rolando Dizon, FSC, facilitated the negotiation of the said donation.

From the total amount, P25 million will be used to fully equip and air-condition the 9th floor gymnasium of the PE and Sports Complex, P20 million will be allotted for athletic scholarships, and P5 million will be appropriated for a sports solidarity fund.

The construction of the Physical Fitness Center on the 9th floor of the Sports Complex will start by the third week of January.

Putting Challenge returns to Big City

THE SAMSUNG Putting Challenge returns to the Big City this weekend and Metro Manilans will have one last try to shoot for stints in the finals as the national elimination winds up tomorrow and Sunday at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Wack Wack will be the seventh host club for the Challenge, a unique skills contest on greens reading and putting touch that has lured thousands of local golfers since it was opened for public play at Aguinaldo in November.

It is deemed best to join the Wack Wack leg since it is also the venue of the finals on Feb. 1 where the 70 leg winners will decide who's really the best.

The event is part of a three-part series marking Samsung's biggest involvement in the local golf scene. The co-sponsors are Taylor Made adidas, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers and Greg Norman Shirts by Planet Sports.

Another reason to visit Wack Wack is the hole-in-one side-event where a one-putt on a designated hole gets the player one step closer to the brand new car which will be given away during the finals also on Feb. 1.

"It's certainly one of the easiest way to win a car which is just a good read of the designated hole," said Boy Blue Ocampo of the Professional Sports Management Group which organizes the Samsung golf bash.

Ocampo also said that he won't be surprised if Wack Wack turns out to be bigger than the record-breaking Villamor stop since those who failed to make it in the previous legs will try to catch the last ticket.

There will be 10 slots to be disputed over two days with the daily winners in the jungolf, ladies and seniors and the top two in the men's division advancing. The objective is to break the par 18 set for the miniature course to be laid out on the practice green.

Aside from the Putting Challenge, the Samsung series also has the Amateur Tour, the eliminations of which will end at Mt. Malarayat on Feb. 6-7 and the finals at Tagaytay Midlands in March and the National Interscholastics.

SPORTSWATCH

Tiong cagefest up

THE 27TH Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association, more popularly known as the Chinese NCAA, reels off on Jan. 18 at the UNO High School gym. Philippine Sports Commission chairman Eric Buhain has been invited to be the guest of honor in the inaugural ceremony which starts at 3:30 p.m. Member schools of the MMTLBA include host UNO High, St. Stephen, Xavier, St. Jude and Chiang Kai Shek. Products of Tiong Lian tournaments are led by Joseph Yeo, Tyron Tang, Eric Yao, Christian Luanzon, Charles Tan, Alfrancis Chua and ex-PBA players Fortunato Co, Lim Em Beng and Sonny Co. Tournament format calls for a double-round elimination in the high school and below-15 divisions. The top two teams clash for the championship.

Chess lectures

THE FIRST series of 2003 Milo Checkmate Saturday-only clinic starts its formal chess lectures tomorrow, Jan. 18, at three different venues, namely, St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. Clinic at SBC will be held at the HS lounge from 7:30-11:30 a.m.; at RMSC--9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the NAS manager's office and 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the GSC former fishing wharf. The clinic will also be held at the 4/F of J and F Divino Bldg. located at #967 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City starting on Jan. 25 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. For more details, call the organizing MCC at 826-8560 and 0918-939-3702.

Polo opens Sunday

THE 2003 polo season formally starts with the staging of the Past Presidents' Cup on Sunday at the East Polo Field of the Manila Polo Club. Manila Polo Club president Jesus Tambunting and the board of directors announced the opening ceremonies of the event which starts at 2 p.m. For details, call Loise or Djenny at 817-0951 locals 202, 203 or 210.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Cesar Aquino notched 15.5 points to capture the 14th Philippine Artists chess championships at the Heritage House in Quezon City. Also today in 1997, the Central Luzon Polytechnic College men's and ladies' badminton teams ruled the 1997 State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association Region 3 meet in Cabanatuan City.

Pasay 4-cock derby tonight

A CASH prize of P300,000 awaits the winners of another bigtime 4-Cock Derby tonight at Pasay City Cockpit.

Some 60 fast-paced encounters are on tap in the event sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and Sagupaan Mite Free.

This will be the first presentation of Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) for 2003. PCCA will stage a series of derbies until May to determine the Cocker of the Year 2003.

Among the PCCA stalwarts are Jake Macasaet.

For other details, interested parties may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

Meanwhile, a 4-cock event is also slated on Jan. 24 to be promoted by Cito Manansala, followed by a 5-Cock derby on Jan. 31 with Jun Marasigan of Batangas as host.

'Golden Circle' solo champion

GOLDEN Circle PBRJ of Micahael Bitanga swept its last four fights yesterday to score six points and emerge solo champion of the well attended NCA-7 Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I was just lucky," said Bitanga after the victory.

Three other entries registered 5 1/2 points to share runner-up honors, namely Winslet sa Pasay Feb. 7-8 5-Cock Derby of last year's World Slasher champion Dicky Lim, GE Mapalad Limafer of Alex and Gerry Escalona and HK-Winning Time DVH-Jobo of former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud.

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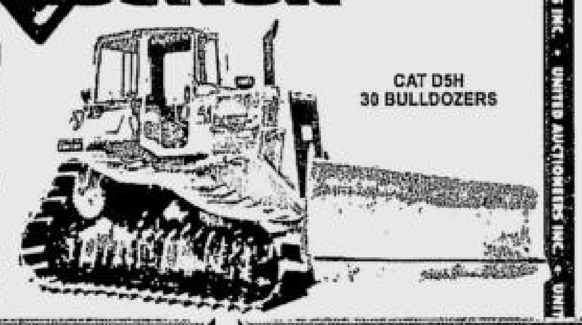

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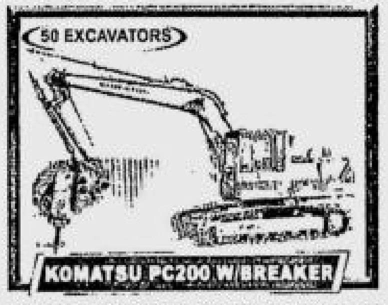

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Agojo, Landicho share lead

ROGER MARGALLO

AGOJO: At 15, gunning for history.

By Jong Arcano

JUNGOLF star Jayvie Agojo and darkhorse Lucy Landicho emerged yesterday from Manila Golf Club's back nine jungle with the least scratches to forge a tie for the lead in the 41st Philippine Ladies Open.

The back nine became a test of survival due to its towering trees lining up the tight fairways.

But Agojo benefitted most from the field's nightmares of the day, getting some luck from a late collapse by the unheralded Landicho.

Agojo, who shared the lead at tee off with three others, found herself tied with Landicho with one round left.

Landicho's bogey on the 17th and a double-bogey on the 18th proved crucial as her 5-over-par 76 pulled her down to a tie with the 15-year-old Agojo.

They were both at 151.

Agojo, bidding to become the youngest winner of the tournament, got her share of the back nine headaches early, taking a double-bogey on the 10th and a bogey on the 11th on the way to a 77.

Heidi Chua, the defending champion, also succumbed to bad luck, double-bogeying 12 and 15 and will start today's final round a stroke behind the young Agojo and Landicho at 152.

Betty Ng of Hong Kong was all alone in 4th place at 153.

But also still in the running are Ria Denise Quiazon, the Fill-American, and Lora Roberto, one of the four first round leaders, who are tied at 155.

Quiazon actually had the best score of the day of 75 while the diminutive Roberto soared to an 81.

Aileen Yao, the former champion who was also in the lead after Round 1, made the biggest collapse as she ballooned to an 84 and fell seven strokes behind Agojo and Landicho at 158.

Chua was unfazed.

"I had a bad start and there were stretches in the game that I felt I could have done better. But everybody still has a chance, I guess," said Chua, who bogeyed the first two holes.

Sponsors are Pagcor, PCSO, PSC, ICTSI, Nestle, PLDT, Rustan's, International Distillery, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Golden Donuts, Sentry, RCBC, Crucible Gallery, Prudential Guarantee and Assurance Inc., Gerry Handog, Jun Agojo, Dave Floro and Albert Yao.

LANDICHO: Big surprise. ROGER MARGALLO

Casas grabs 1-shot edge

DAVAO—Don't write Cassius Casas off.

Almost forgotten after a recent string of disastrous scores, Casas re-emerged with a vengeance yesterday, firing a 5-under-par 67 for a one-stroke lead with one round left in the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit sixth leg here.

Overshadowed by his townmate Elmer Salvador's solid showing the first two rounds, Casas exploded with seven birdies in a fiery effort at the up-and-down Rancho Palos Verdes course that saw him gun down three consecutive birdies in each of the nines.

Only two players are threatening Casas in the series revived and bankrolled by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's foundation and San Miguel Beer.

Mars Pucay was a shot behind at 210 and Salvador three adrift at 212.

Pucay, himself itching to end a two-year title drought, had a roller-coaster round of 70 while journeyman Salvador stumbled with a triple-bogey right on the first hole and needed a strong finish to salvage a 74.

Sharing fourth were Sta. Elena leg winner Tony Lascuña (69), Canlubang stop champion Richard Sinfuego (71) and veteran Eddie Bagtas (76) but all three need to come up with big comebacks as they lay seven shots off at 216.

The eminent Frankie Miñoza shot a second 77 in three days and was virtually out of it after falling in 23rd spot.

After ending a long slump with a win at Sherwood Hills in the Tour's second leg last year, Casas returned to mediocrity with three consecutive missed-cuts where he even turned in 80s.

He said he owes his good round to "his old swing."

"Ginaya ko na lang iyong dati at mukhang umuubra naman," said Casas. JA

The scores:

209 - C. Casas 73-69-67 (33-34)

210 - M. Pucay 73-67-70 (35-35)

212 - E. Salvador 69-69-74 (37-37)

216 - A. Lascuna 72-75-69 (34-35), R. Sinfuego 73-72-71 (36-35), E. Bagtas 73-72-71 (36-35)

217 - Rn. Pactolerin 74-73-70 (36-34), D. Zarate 73-71-73 (35-38), M. Siodina 72-70-75 (39-36)

220 - A. Cruz 73-72-75, R. Pagunsan 73-72-75, V. Santia 76-72-73

221 - Ro. Pactolerin 73-75-73 (36-37), R. Allt 75-70-76 (38-38), R. Bisara 79-66-76 (40-36), R. Sasutil 74-70-77 (39-38), P. Minoza (am) 69-74-78 (41-37)

222 - B. Magada 72-75-76 (36-39)

223 - E. Ababa 75-75-73 (39-34), D. delos Santos 74-75-74 (38-36)

Upsilonians play at Sherwood Hills

THE UPSILON Alumni Association kicks off its sporting activity for the new year with the staging of the Upsilonians Na Pumapalo tournament today at Sherwood Hills.

"Eighty of us are taking part in our season opener," said Col. Abelardo "Be-Abs" Villanueva, the newly elected chair for this year and tournament organizer.

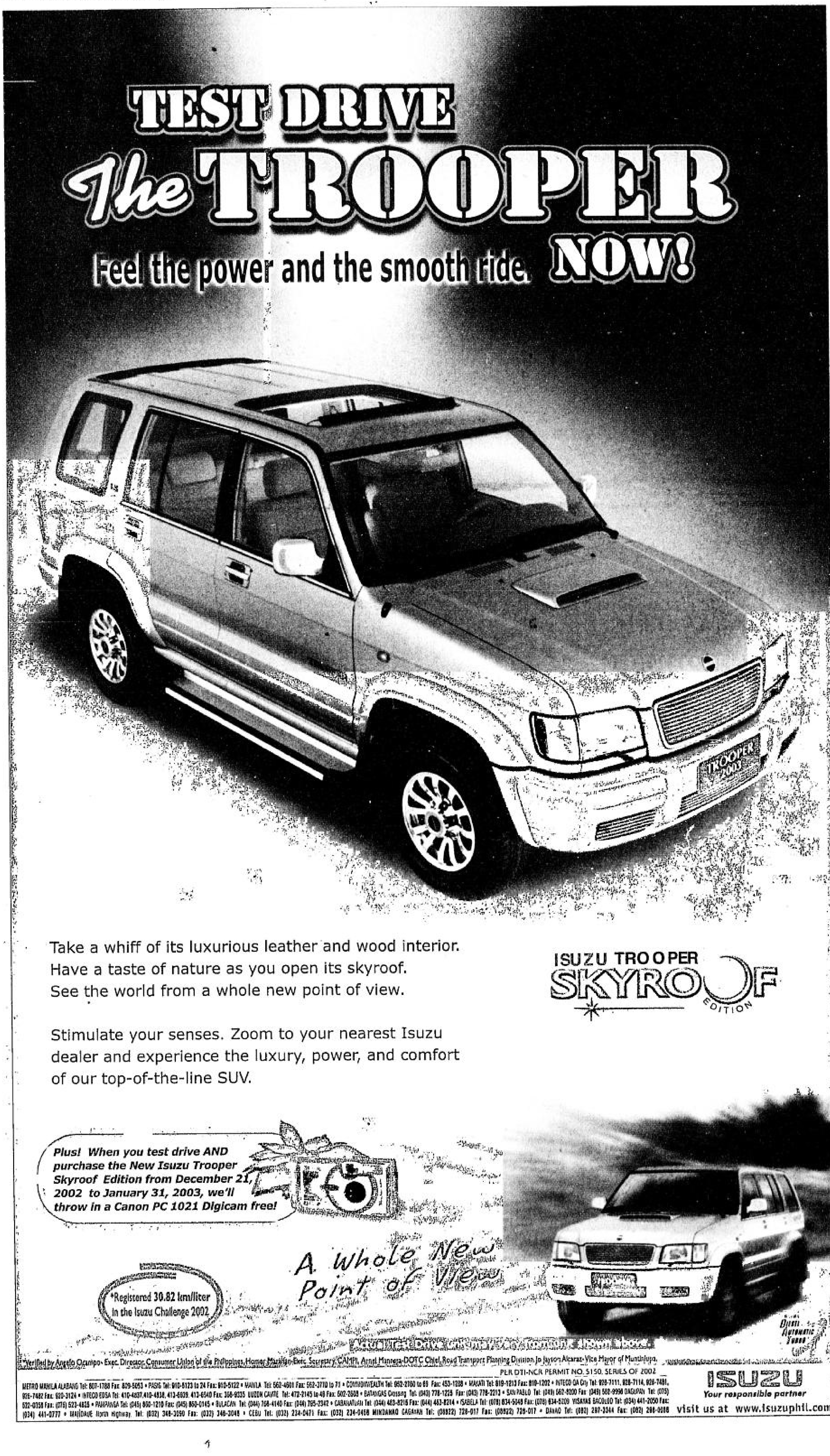
"On behalf of all Upsilonians, I would like to thank Cavite Vice Gov. John Vic Remulla for graciously hosting our first tournament for the year."

Banker Carlos "Lito" Pedrosa is the newly elected chair of the Upsilon Alumni Association while Benny Fulgencio is the AAU president.

Heading the field are former Philippine Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel, Development Bank of the Philippines chair Mon Abad and Archit Bartolome.

Other notables are Rep. Arnie Puentevella, Gilbert Remulla, Jacinto Paras and John Bondoc.

"The players will be grouped in three divisions, namely, Founders, Chairman and President, based on their Upsilonian handicapping system," Villanueva said.



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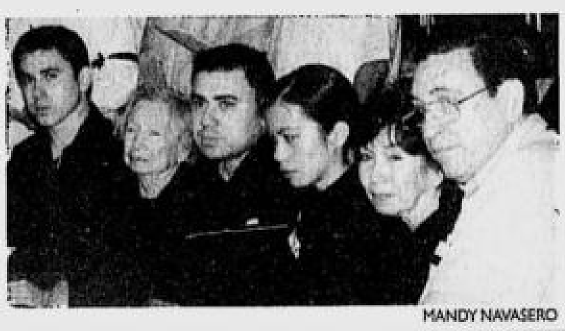
Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Slay suspect sends surrender feelers

By Philip Tubeza



IN the wake are (from right) victim's father Ramon, mother Marilou, girlfriend Sid Castro, brother Raffy, grandma Mercedes, youngest brod Mon.

MANDY NAVASERO

THE SUSPECT in the killing of topnotch Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas has sent surrender feelers through a relative, a source at the National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

Trader Cola M. Ditato, 38, of Block 21, Lot 3, Barangay Datu Esmael, Dasmariñas, Cavite, who has gone missing since Sunday, said he was was willing "to be investigated in the case."

But the suspect did not say when he is going to give himself up and is apparently still testing the waters.

The source said the NBI is willing to listen to Ditato's side.

"He is a suspect. He should come out and clear his name if he really did not do it," the source said.

An NBI witness earlier said that he was "60 to 70 percent" sure that Ditato shot Llamas during a traffic altercation in Pasay City on Friday afternoon.

But the source said the NBI wanted to make certain if it was really Ditato who killed Llamas.

The bureau began hunting down the suspect after Land Transportation Office records showed that the Kawasaki motorcycle the gunman had left behind after the slay belonged to Ditato.

"It was registered to him when the shooting occurred. (If it's true it was borrowed,) then he can tell us who used it," the source said.

But the investigator noted that Ditato had "more than one motorcycle." He said it could have been the other bike that was borrowed.

The source also said that Camp Crame records showed Ditato had no firearms license.

"I believe that very, very soon, we will solve this case. It is not that hard or complicated," the source said.

The NBI on Wednesday said the suspect could still be in Luzon as he has not gone back to his native Marawi City.

Meanwhile, Llamas is scheduled to be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium in Parañaque today.

Group wants Noli, Loren off the air

By Jerome Aning

A LAWYERS group says Senators Loren Legarda and Noli de Castro should be prohibited from exercising their profession as broadcasters during their incumbency as this is prohibited by law.

The Social Justice Society, a party-list group, told the Manila regional trial court these public officials are barred from exercising their profession under Republic Act No. 6713, or the code of conduct and ethical standards for public officials and employees.

SJS president Samson Alcantara, a law professor, filed the five-page petition for declaratory relief Tuesday.

Alcantara cited Section 7 of R.A. 6713 which declares unlawful for any public official and employee to "engage in private practice of their profession unless authorized by the Constitution or law, provided that such practice will not conflict or tend to conflict with official functions."

Alcantara said it is "of paramount interest" that the issue be resolved since Constitution does not expressly authorize a mediaman elected as senator to continue hosting TV shows during his incumbency.

Legarda, the Senate's majority leader, and De Castro continue to host separate programs at ABS-CBN station.

"It is safe to say that (De Castro and Legarda) were elected into office, harvesting a vast number of votes unprecedented in Philippine elections, by reason of their celebrity status," Alcantara said.

The SJS wants the RTC to rule on whether De Castro and Legarda's hosting of TV shows is an exercise of profession and thus prohibited by RA 6713.

The lawyers group is pursuing a similar case against Lipa City mayor Vilma Santos, Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

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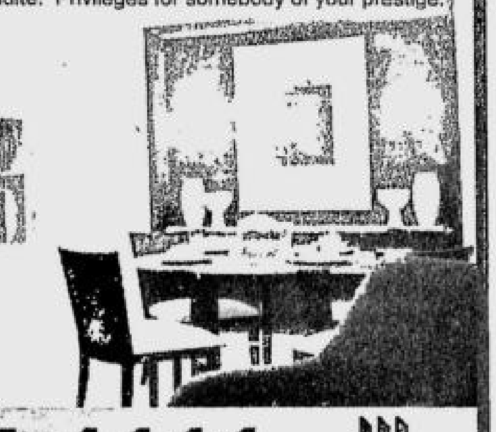

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Watch your grammar, councilor warns stuttering colleague

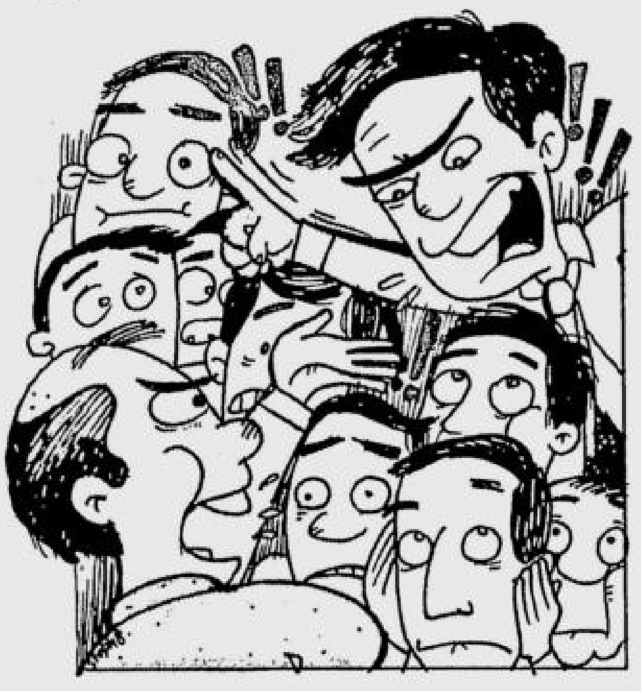
By Jerome Aning

A MANILA alderman yesterday went on the warpath during a City Council session after minority councilors tried to have the "renegade" barangay league president take his seat in the body.

Councilor Danilo Varona told minority councilor Isko Moreno to "watch your grammar," after the latter committed slips during a privilege speech.

Moreno reportedly asked the majority bloc why it is insisting on implementing an ordinance that is still pending in court.

In the course of his speech, Moreno reportedly stuttered and lapsed into long-drawn "aaahhs...," whenever he jumps from English to Tagalog and vice versa, according to Natalio Beltran III, the renegade league president.



"I'm used to being faulted for my grammar, but what's wrong with that?" asked Moreno after the session. "It doesn't diminish my service to my constituents."

In a phone interview yesterday, Moreno said he was speaking in "Taglish," a mix of Tagalog and English, and could not remember committing any grammatical error. He said he would wait for the minutes of the debate.

Moreno said that he believes Varona's attack was "personally motivated."

Moreno earlier argued that renegade league president Beltran should be recognized as sectoral representative while the court is still studying his case.

The majority councilors recognize Carlos Castañeda, who was elected barangay league chief under new election rules formulated by the Council.

But Beltran, the incumbent president, maintains that the new rules are illegal. He was reelected in a separate election.

The leader of the majority, Casimiro Sison, said that the majority's recognition of Castañeda stands on legal ground.

During the heated exchange, Beltran quietly sat at the back of the session hall. He later told the INQUIRER over the phone that he is still hoping the majority would stick to the agreement.

He was referring to the agreement between the majority and the minority that the seat for the league chief must be left vacant until the court has ruled on the issue.

It began when Moreno asked the Council why it is insisting on enforcing the ordinance on the new election rules that is still pending in court, while it refuses to implement another measure—the oil depot phaseout—which is also pending in court.

Varona then made the remark on Moreno's grammar, which he said Moreno should tend to, instead of harassing people by attacking them in privilege speeches.

The Council's acting presiding officer, Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, banged the gavel and adjourned the session before Moreno could reply and before Varona could clarify his statement.

Cooler-headed councilors then surrounded and pacified their feuding colleagues, who were audibly exchanging taunts, even after Atienza had ordered the microphones to be switched off.

METROBRIEFS

Bombs found in Pasig, Project 4

WORLD War II bombs have been turning up in Metro Manila. A vintage ordnance was found in a construction site in Pasig City while another bomb was turned over to police after it turned up in the backyard of a Quezon City lawyer. Police said the bomb in Pasig City spawned heavy traffic on Amang Rodriguez Avenue when it began to spew smoke at about 2 p.m. Tuesday at a construction site. The bomb was about 15 inches long and has a six-inch diameter. Workers tried to sell the bomb to a junkshop owner, who refused to buy it. When they returned to the worksite, the workers said that smoke began to come out of the bomb. Pasig policemen detonated the bomb on a vacant lot. In Quezon City, Atty. Pabling Reyes went to Central Police District Station 8 on Tuesday to surrender a bomb he found in his backyard three years ago. After hearing reports that a bomb allegedly exploded in Manila, Reyes of Barangay Masagana, Project 4, Quezon City, decided to turn in the device. Bomb disposal experts examined the bomb and said it posed no danger.

Nelson Flores, Alcuin Papa

Girl raped in Sta. Mesa

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl left a street gang only to be raped by two men when she tried to join another gang in Manila. The victim, a resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila, accused True Brown Style members Jun Comilang, 21, and Wilson Fortaleza, 21, both of Sta. Mesa, of abusing her, according to the Western Police District. The suspects were arrested while Comilang's 18-year-old niece is still being investigated because she allegedly witnessed the rape. Police said the victim had just left her gang, the 4J Tribe, and joined the TBS, a group notorious for engaging in street fights that resulted in several deaths last year. The victim said a friend accompanied her to Comilang's at around 5 p.m. where the two suspects allegedly agreed to induct the victim into the TBS. They allegedly burned her hand and made her drink alcohol until she passed out. The suspects then allegedly raped her. The next day, she reported the matter to the police, after she told her parents what had happened.

Philip Tubeza

Man sentenced to life in Quezon City

JUDGE Jose Catral Mendoza of the QC Regional Trial Court on Tuesday sentenced Carlos Borja to life imprisonment for stabbing suspected snatcher Wilfredo de los Santos Jr. while the latter was being beaten up by a mob in Novaliches, Quezon City, on Aug. 25, 1999. Judge Mendoza also ordered Borja to pay the family of De los Santos, then a sophomore student at the Philippine Aeronautic Training Center, P226,000 in moral and other damages. Court records showed that a commotion took place on Geronimo Street, Bayan, Novaliches at about 9 p.m. after a robber snatched the bag of an old woman. A mob then chased the suspected snatcher who turned out to be De los Santos, and began beating him up as soon as he was caught. Witness Nestor de Leon, who was one of those who caught De los Santos, said he was about to bring the victim to the police when Borja stabbed De los Santos in the chest. He died before he was taken to a hospital. But Borja denied this, claiming that he was helping the old woman whose bag was snatched. He also said he no longer knew what happened afterwards, because he had to bring the old woman, who was having difficulty breathing, to his house. Borja however failed to present the old woman in court. "Granting that the victim was a snatcher, Borja should not have taken the law into his own hands ," Mendoza said. "(The victim) was already held and restrained. He did not seriously hurt or kill anybody. The killing was clearly disproportionate to what (the victim) had done, if any."

Agnes E. Donato

PANDACAN DEPOT CONTROVERSY

Dad calls Atienza Pontius Pilate

By Jerome Aning

DOING a "Pontius Pilate."

This was how minority Manila councilor Bernardito Ang yesterday described Mayor Lito Atienza after he tossed back the Pandacan oil issue to the City Council for resolution.

"The mayor shouldn't wash his hands (of the problem) and (should) instead set a direction for the council," Ang told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "He should finish what he began, since it was he all along who initiated the phaseout."

But most of the aldermen reacted cautiously to Atienza's move.

Asked what the council would do and should do, the body's president pro tempore Alejandro "Kim" Atienza said that the controversy "would entail a lot of study."

The younger Atienza also said that the majority would work for a win-win solution to the problem.

"And any solution that the council may reach would be for the good not only of Pandacan residents but also of Metro Manila folk who would be affected," the mayor's son added.

Minority leader Don Ramon Bagatsing, however, described the mayor's decision as "very ticklish" and declined to comment.

Ang said that any course of action that the majority councilors might reach would reflect the mayor's (preference) since they are all allies of Atienza.

But another minority alderman, Benjamin Asilo, said the majority councilors will have a hard time explaining any reversal of their earlier stand that the depot poses danger to Pandacan.

ATIENZA

On Tuesday, City Hall said the oil firms operating the depot "have not fully delivered their commitments" under the memorandum of understanding they signed in July last year.

But in a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, the three oil firms said that they have submitted to Atienza the progress report showing their accomplishments in compliance with the MOU.

The report was a requirement imposed by Atienza in connection with the renewal of the operating permits of the oil depot, the statement said.

The oil companies reported that from July to December last year, they have removed from the depot two LPG spheres and 11 vertical tanks or 46 percent of the total commitment of 28 fuel storage tanks for decommissioning.

The green safety buffer zone has been cleared and is ready for earthworks and greening.

The report also included a firm schedule for the removal of the other storage tanks in compliance with the MOU.

Missionary killer arrested in QC

By Alcuin Papa

QUEZON City policemen on Wednesday picked up two persons in connection with the murder of a missionary and her assistant on Monday.

Central Police District director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro said Jesus Austero, of Luzon Avenue, Barangay Balara, Quezon City, was arrested at his house at around 8:45 p.m. Wednesday night.

Castro said Marlyn Mallo, also of Luzon Avenue, was also picked up for questioning after police learned that her son took part in the murder.

Mallo allegedly admitted to police that she told her son to escape.

Police recovered from Mallo P2,000 in cash which were stained with the blood of the victims. Police said Mallo's son Nomer, 19, gave the cash to his mother before he escaped.

According to Castro, his men had gone to Tigiib, Tuguegarao to look for Nomer.

On Monday, Myrnaloie Beebe, 58, an American missionary of the Osbourne Missionaries, and Jovielyn Parejo, 21, both of St. Dominic Subdivision, Culiat, Quezon City, were found dead in their bedroom.

Davide classmate cries for justice

THE following letter, from a fellow newsman, comes all the way from Cebu. It's specifically addressed to concerned authorities but is nonetheless worth a read:

Dear Recah,

My problem is not life-threatening that it should be referred to my high school section mate, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. as in the case of boxing promoter Perry McNeely of JMP Boxing CLub of Cebu City.

My complaint is a simple case of collection of fire insurance claims worth something like P6.5 million which have remained unpaid for almost 19 months already, despite the submission and the certification of the adjusters that all documents have already been submitted.

I know that you can help me. Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis seems nonchalant about the matter, except to toss it back to the insurance companies concerned for routinary comment. In this case, Great Domestic Insurance Co., Capital Surety & Insurance Corp. and People's General Insurance Co.

I am one of the owners of the burnt establishment—Gamallosons Traders, Co. Inc.—of Mandaue City which was gutted by fire of accidental origin on June 4, 2001.

One of the co-insurers, Federal Phoenix, promptly paid our claim of P500,000 as early as December 2001. Another co-insurer, People's General, paid an advance of P700,000 in March 2002, with the balance of P700,000 to be paid out "as soon as the lead insurer, Great Domestic Insurance Co., pays its liability of about P4.5 million."

But what did the president of Great Domestic tell Malinis about those payments made? Mar S. Lopez said that these firms "were pressured into paying their share to make it appear about the legitimacy (sic) of our claim."

A fourth co-insurer, Capital Surety, through its vice president for Legal, Atty. J. Cuartero, only cryptically answered in a letter I received on April 14, 2002 that it cannot comment on our claim (P2,304, 558.81) with finality "as we are still awaiting advice of the lead insurer, Great Domestic Insurance." I have not heard anymore from Capital Surety since nine months ago.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Not even the various appeals that I and a few other media people in Cebu have aired, including TV Patrol's "Hoy Gising" last Sept. 15, 2002 and on Channel 21 two months back, seem to have touched a sensitive chord in these insurance firms. They have remained calloused and obstinate.

The only feedback I got from Mar S. Lopez is a copy of that letter he sent to Commissioner Malinis, dated Oct. 24, 2002, in which said: "We have received some reliable information regarding the origin of the fire that this may affect the claim." I call that double rubbish from a company president that claims „to have been established 57 years ago. Unless, the Fire Marshall of the Mandaue City Fire Station has issued a third certification about the fire which I am not aware of. Is Lopez trying to hoodwink the Insurance Commissioner? Or avoid paying?

What Lopez told Malinis on Oct. 24 was entirely different from what Atty. Rolando Ramos of Great Domestic told me over long distance last Nov. 20--a month later--that the board was already processing our claim in consultation with Capital Surety and People's General Insurance. When I called up Ramos after getting a copy of Lopez's letter of Oct. 24 and reminded him about what he told me earlier, he said that the case was already taken out of his hands. And that somebody else is handling it. Why is Great Domestic Insurance treating our claim as some piece of shit?

It seems that we have exhausted already all administrative options before we go to Court. Some people will also have to answer before the Deputy Ombudsman-Visayas for anti-graft and corrupt practices if the licenses of these firms will be renewed on or before June 30 this year.

Thank you for listening to me.

Fraternally yours,
Manuel 'Manny' Oyson Jr.
Oyson & Oyson Law Office
M. Aznar Roard, Brgy. Sambag 2, Cebu City

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Pag-Asa ng Masa! Magbabalik na!

Another Fil-American talent makes it to Hollywood

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE first saw **Nia Peeples** on TV, co-hosting a show about funny home videos. Somebody in the television trade informed us that the perky performer was a Fil-American talent, and we let it go at that.

This year, however, Nia has made the transition from TV to film, so her being part-Filipino is bigger news. She co-stars with **Steven Seagal** and rapper **Ja Rule** in "Half Past Dead," and her role gives her a good showcase for her fighting skills.

Nia plays a so-called "villain from hell" named 49ers Six, and figures strongly in the movie's key action scenes. To meet her role's very physical requirements, she had to train in Wushu for months.

Nia says she had a great time shooting her scenes for "Half Past Dead" because her character in the film is "totally insane! She wants to see how far she can push her luck before it runs out!"

Among the stunts she had to do in the movie: throwing knives with deadly accuracy, rapelling into a prison upside-down, and going all-out in her big fight to the finish with Ja Rule.

Will Nia specialize in action roles on the big screen? Not at all, she's versatile enough to also do well in comedy or drama with a decided preference for the former!

Slim pickings

IT WAS slim pickings for the Philippines at the recent 7th Annual Asian TV Awards. Many of the citations for excellence went to Singapore-originated programs, while Pinoy TV tried to content itself with just three—best music program: "One Night with Regine," ABS-CBN; best light entertainment presenter/performer: **Donita Rose** on MTV Southeast Asia; and best drama performance by an actress: **Aiza Seguerra** in the "Songbook" episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya," ABS-CBN.

Three out of some 25 awards is rather lean, especially when you note that Donita Rose won for her work in a Singapore-based show. Well, no use crying ever trophies that went to other countries' TV networks. Instead, our TV people should take its lean harvest as a challenge to raise its standards, eliminate negative industry practices, and come on much stronger at the 8th Asian TV Awards.

Incidentally, Aiza's unexpected victory as a dramatic actress should prompt local producers to take another long look at her. All this time, Aiza has become popular for her perky ways as a child star and her acoustic hits as a young-adult singer.

Well, her Asian TV award declares that she's also a terrific dramatic actress—in fact, the best not just on Philippine TV, but in all of Asia. So, some smart producer should whip up a dramatic musical for Aiza, to take advantage of her twin talents.

Singapore TV's awards were in these categories: best original song, best comedy program, best entertainment special (MTV Asia Awards main show), best sports program (Football Asia), best talk show ("You're Ok, I'm Ok"), best youth program ("Youth Quest"), broadcaster of the year (SPH Mediaworks), best comedy performance by an actor (Adrian Pang), best terrestrial channel (Channel U) and best cable and satellite channel (MTV Southeast Asia).

Taiwan won awards for best children's program, best current affairs program (PTV's "Hall of Dissent") and best drama performance by an actor (Kou Shih Hsun).

Japan: best single drama or telemovie ("When Camellia Petals Fall"), best drama series ("Golden Bowl"), best natural history or wildlife program ("Vampire from the Abyss"), best news presenter or anchor (Catherine Yang).

China: best documentary program ("Mother"). India: best current affairs or infotainment presenter (Niret Ava). Thailand: best game or quiz show ("Stop the Clock").

Hong Kong: most innovative program ("Dreams Come True"), best news program (News Biz Today) and best news/ current affairs special (News Magazine: "Asian Economy").

La Salle benefit dance

ARLINDA, 27, is a graduating student of the Adult Night High School (ANHS) of La Salle Green Hills. A janitress by day, she goes to school at night.

Ramil, 19, is a former garbage collector in Novaliches. He is a junior at the ANHS. After graduation, he hopes to land a better job so he can help his 12 siblings in Tagbilaran, Bohol.

Andy, 22, is a a second-year student at the ANHS and a vendor who has been living alone in the wet market where he works since he was 10. Despite his backbreaking life, he earned an average grade of 87 as a freshman last year.

They are only some of the 850 students enrolled at the La Salle Green Hills Adult Night High School who will benefit from the Jan. 17 dinner-dance, sponsored by the Parents Employers Association of the ANHS.

To be hosted by Edu Manzano, the dinner-dance aims to raise funds for the ANHS Foundation that keeps the night school going.

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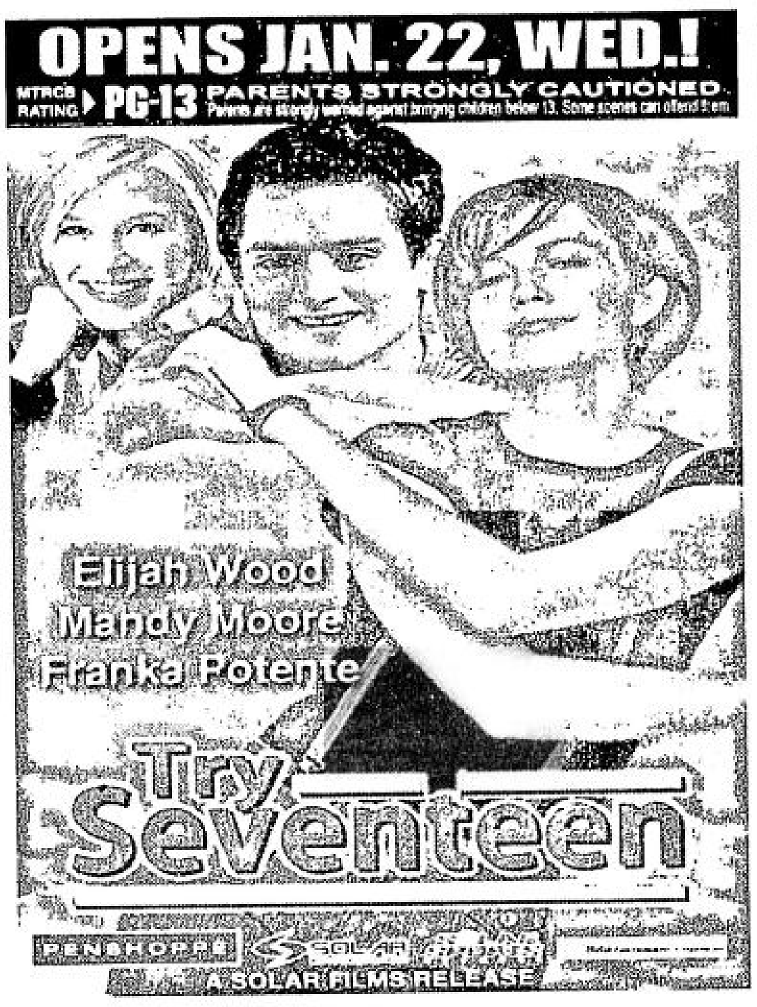

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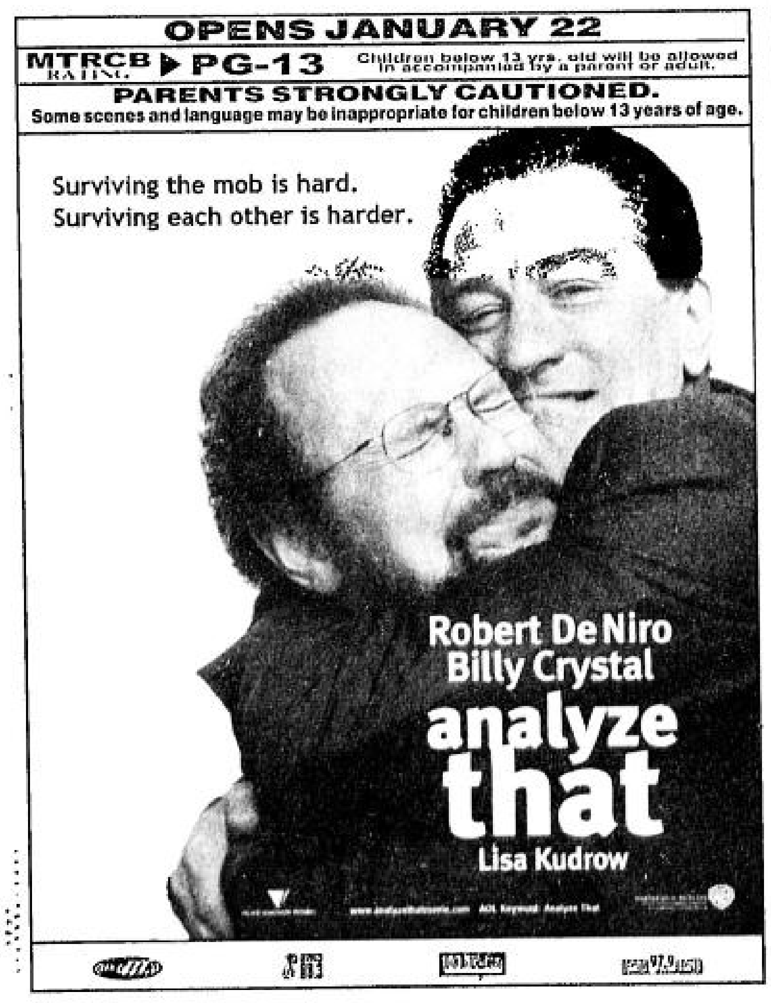

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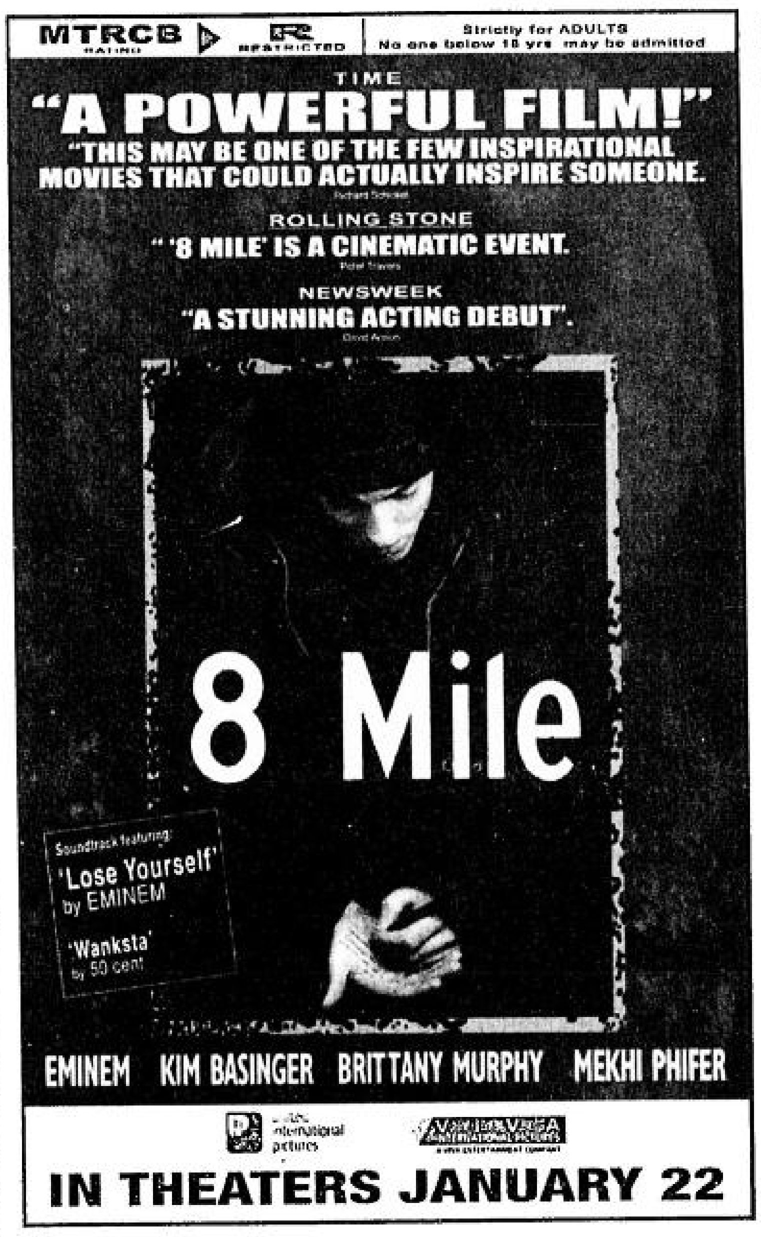

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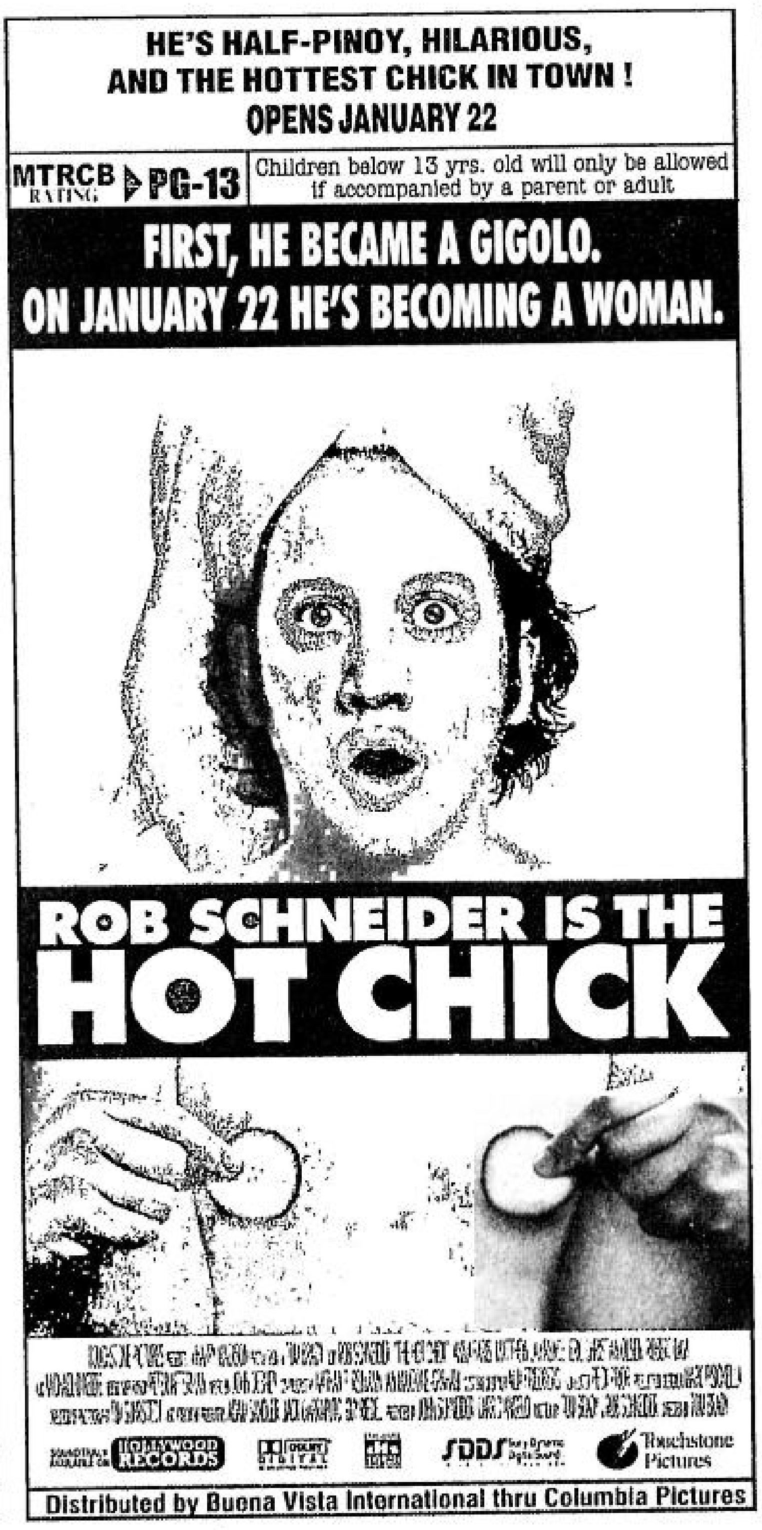

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	LASTIKMAN
Ali 2	KERIDA
Ali 3	HALF PAST DEAD
Ali 4	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 5	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 6	HEAVEN
Ali 7	MANO PO
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	HALF PAST DEAD
Farmers 2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
JAN 20, 22, 24	WORLD SLASHER CUP 2003
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN. 17	10 AM / 3 PM / 5 PM
JAN. 18	3 PM / 5 PM
JAN 19	3 PM / 5 PM

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MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BAHID / LET'S TALK SEX
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ODEON-2	MASARAP NA PUGAD / KALARO
ROBEN	BANGKERO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	TRIPLE X / SPIDER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BANGKERO
QUEZON-1	KERIDA
REMAR	HALF PAST DEAD
REMAR-2	KERIDA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
B	HULA MO, HULI KO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
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CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BANGKERO
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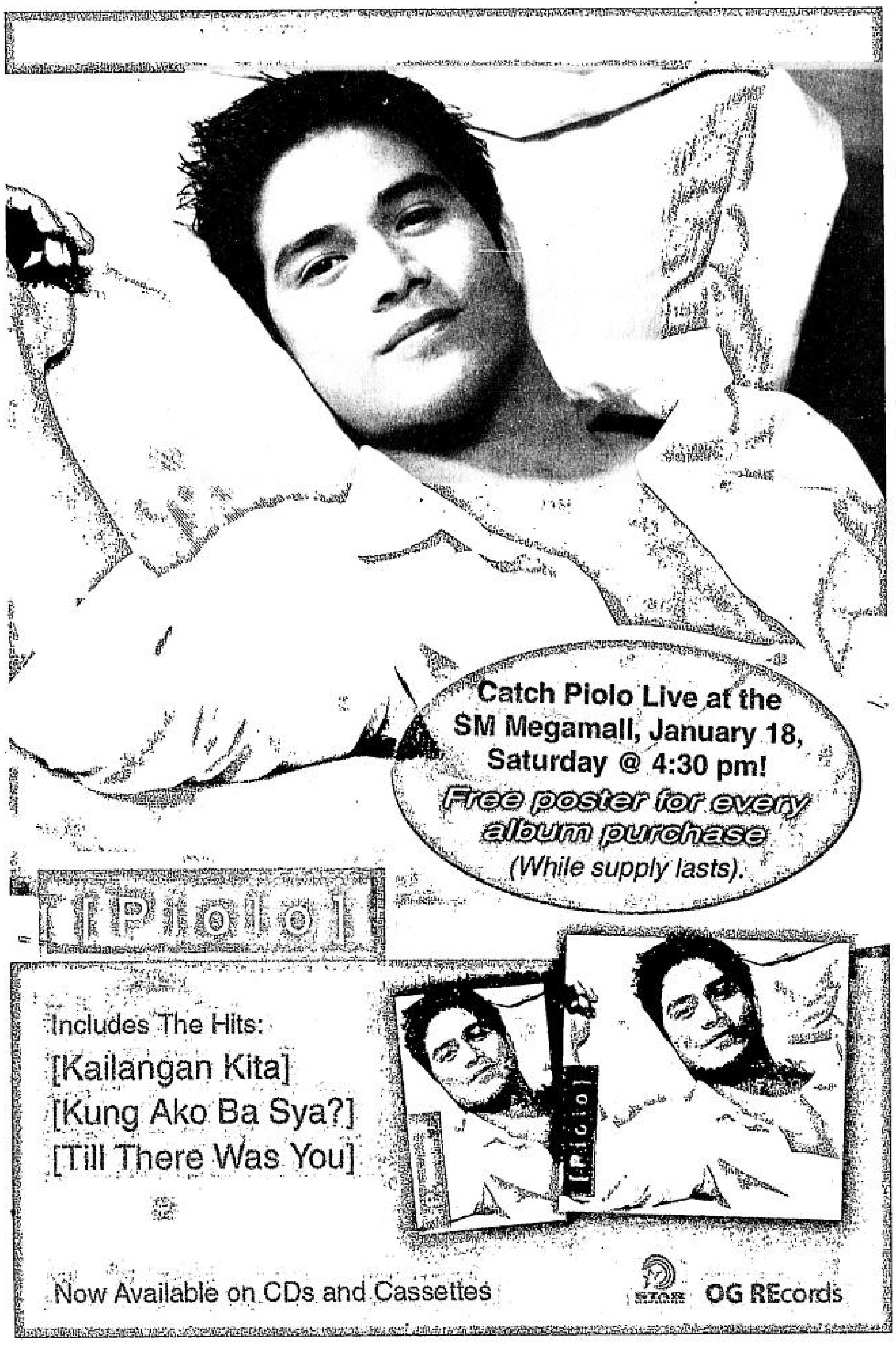
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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Legrand: I want to bring Regine to another planet

From page A32

You have had a very prolific musical career. How do you define your musical style?

Oh, I have no idea. It is not my responsibility to define it. I think that I'm capable to write in many, many different styles. For instance, let's say the musicals like "Umbrellas of Cherbourg" or "Young Girls of Rochefort" or "Yentl," they don't sound (like they were by) the same composer. I hope not. Nobody can say, "Ah this is the same one."

You have won Oscars and many other awards and recognition for your work. What else does Michel Legrand wish to accomplish?

Oh, lots of things! I'm very demanding of myself. This is why I'm always demanding of other people with whom I work. Sometimes they don't like it very much, but this is the way I am.

When I was young, I absolutely wanted to be able to do every single thing. I wanted to write, to orchestrate, to arrange, to compose, to do films, to do theater, to do songs, to do records, to do instruments. I wanted to sing. I wanted to conduct. I wanted to play the piano. Classical. I wanted to eat the whole meal, everything on the table. Everything concerning music, of course.

So I studied, for a long, long time, my instrument and also my writing. Now, I'm concentrating on theater because I haven't done theater yet.

So for the coming years, I've already done serious stuff, one in New York, on Broadway, last year, one in London this year, one in Paris. I have a lot of different courses to propose. When I start something, I'm very excited, but when the success comes, I'm never excited anymore. I need something fresh. Stravinsky used to say, "a fresh place on the pillow."

My next venture is going to be classical music. I want to write symphonies and concertos. Later, when I'm an old man, I'd be able to pilot my plane or get crazy on my motorcycle or boat. I want to be a little calmer, try to write classic stuff.

How do you write a song?

I wish I knew (laughs). I wish I knew. I have no idea. I don't know. I don't know. It's like being pregnant, you know, all the time. And then you have to deliver.

I'm practicing every day, every single day. I'm writing. It's like pumping my well all the time so that the water is on top of the well. So when I need something, instead of pumping for weeks, I just have to do it once and then the water flows. It's like a dancer who practices every day.

Of the hundreds of songs you have composed, do you have any favorites?

No, I don't. Because everything we do, we like. They're like my children. Some are small, some are big, you know. Some are famous, some are absolutely ignored. I love all of them for different reasons. I have no favorites.

What are your impressions of the Philippines—the Filipino audience, the Filipino musician?

It's a huge surprise which I didn't expect. It was like a cold shower. Everybody knows my work. And I had never been there (Philippines). I knew the existence of the Philippine Islands but I'd never been there. (But) it's like I've lived there all my life because everyone knew everything I wrote, even some which are not known even in my own country.

"You sing, you sing the songs. All of them." That's a huge surprise for me. It's like I was coming back home.

They seemed to be very musical, very romantic and very eager for music, good music. And this is why I want to return very often, to do stuff there. I feel it's been part of my family, really. It doesn't have anything to do with language.

That's music. You don't need to speak the language.

But in some countries, you know, you are received like a stranger. In the Philippines, I feel at home, absolutely at home, because we love the same music.

LEGRAND WITH REGINE. "We're going to scream, we're going to cry, we're going to walk on the ceiling."

You have collaborated with some of the world's greatest singers and musicians (including Barbra Streisand, Sarah Vaughn, Miles Davis). What makes our Regine Velasquez special?

Everybody is special. Everyone has his own character, charm, talent, possibilities, defects. When (I) meet someone who is talented, gifted in anything as an individual—if you play the trumpet, if you sing, if you play anything—then that makes me happy and I start to feel alive. I say to myself, Ah, one of my sisters. Certainly Regine is one of my sisters.

Younger sister, though (laughs).

What were your first impressions when you first heard of Regine Velasquez?

At the hotel... Oh, I loved it, I loved it. The first note she sang, I said, "Ah, that's for me! Let's get married. Musically!"

What are your plans/visions for this album?

First, pleasure. Second, high quality, musically. We're going to scream, we're going to cry, we're going to walk on the ceiling. Third, it might be very successful, but that's only third for me. Fourth—very important— the possibility for both of us to appear in concerts together, because we will already have a past together. So we will be accepted on stage together. There they are, husband and wife—musically always, of course. You know.

What is your formula for staying on top?

I'm starving. I'm starving for life. I'm starving for music, for quality, for emotion. I cannot stop it for one minute, for one second. I have to reach that special quality. That for me is what life is about. Life without art doesn't mean a thing for me.

When I'm not creating, when I'm not working, when I'm not loving, when I'm not doing something which is very high, very important for me, I wonder what I'm doing on this planet. So I have to be on my own planet. I don't like this planet very much. I don't know what the people do to each other, as they've done for centuries and centuries. I disappear and go on my own, with my own family. This is the place where I'm going to bring Regine.

("Songbird Sings Legrand" is a production of MaxiMedia International, with CityLights Entertainment UK. It is presented by Dove Facial Foam, with Alberto Shoes, Decolgen and T.G.I. Friday's. Tickets for P600, P900, P1,200, P1,800, P2,400, and, with limited seats, P3,200, are now available in all major National Bookstore branches (891-5610), Tower Records Makati and Alabang, PICC Ticketron (551-923 and 551-902) and Maxi Media ticketing office (551-8999 and 551-7777)

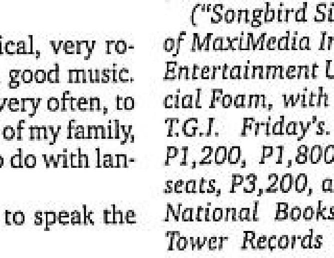
Introduction by Jett Valle, Contributor

Joemari Chan marks 36th year as a singer with two-night show

VIVIAN Velez's production outfit, Starmax International, will mount the two-night concert series of multi-awarded performer Jose Mari Chan, "The Heart of a Songwriter," tonight and tomorrow night, 9 p.m. at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt, Makati.

The shows mark Joemari's 36th year in the music business. His career as a singer-songwriter is one of the most successful and enduring in the local entertainment industry.

To date, Joemari holds the distinction of being the only artist to have achieved 37 platinum record awards in sales of his albums. Two of his albums—"Constant Change" and "Christmas in Our Hearts"—earned for him Diamond Record Awards, an unprecedented feat in the industry.



CHAN. Enduring and successful career.

Onstage is a new venue for Joemari, who will perform in the theater for the first time. His show will be an intimate evening filled with soulful music that consists of his unforgettable hits. Joining him onstage are Tin Arnaldo and Aliya Parcs.

Tickets at P1,200, P1,000 and P600 are available at Onstage, major National Book Store branches, Robinson's (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum, Ayala Center Greenbelt 1 ticket booth cinema lobby and Glorietta 1 ticket booth cinema lobby.

Call Starmax at 635-0473, 631-6944 or 0917-2406191.

"Jose Mari Chan: The Heart of a Songwriter" is supported by Café Puro, Export and Industry Bank, Pepsi Cola, Tanduay Rum, Globe Telecom, Air Philippines and Absolute Mineral Water.

Media sponsors are Crossover 105.1, Magic 89.9 and Citylite 88.3.

Zsa Zsa out to do bigger things this year

REVIVALS will never be out of the music trend. A number of artists are doing revivals, so it is no longer unusual to hear singers adopt old songs and try to make them sound new again.

Zsa Zsa Padilla was convinced about this by her bosses at Viva Records, where she releases her latest album of revival tunes, "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba."

Zsa Zsa gives old songs a new twist in her 15-track CD, which contains songs originally popularized by local and foreign male artists.

"That way, my adaptation would sound fresh," Zsa Zsa allows. "There's comfort when you hear a familiar tune. You make new memories. And you know people would surely listen."

It was the idea of her album producer, **Ben Escasa**, that Zsa Zsa revives old favorites by male performers. Escasa was also the producer of Zsa Zsa's two other albums for Viva—"Sentiments" and her self-titled debut, "Zsa Zsa."

The title track of her latest album is Zsa Zsa's version of **Ogie Alcasid**'s haunting ballad, "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba."

Zsa Zsa originally wanted to record an all-original album that would contain a mix of English and OPM tunes.

"But Boss Vic told me it's not yet time for me to do that," Zsa Zsa says. "He felt the fans would prefer an all-revival format. I respect Boss Vic's decisions. He has very good gut feel about things.

"But I'm still looking forward to recording an all-original album. It's my way of supporting OPM. I also want to sing original Tagalog songs again."

Singing hits by male artists is not really new to Zsa Zsa. Her first album under Viva Records spawned the best-selling carrier single, "We're All Alone," an original by **Boz Scaggs**.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Zsa Zsa had a hand in choosing the tracks for "Mahal Kita, Walang Iba" and she takes pride in the lineup of songs which give the album an easy-listening and acoustic-flavored feel. She renders the tunes in her trademark style.

Her personal favorite is **Rannie Raymundo**'s "Why Can't It Be?"

"I went up to Rannie and asked for that particular song from him because I really like it," Zsa Zsa grants. "I told him I'd take care of his song. I had long wanted to record it."

Dingdong Avanzado's "Maghihintay sa 'Yo," meanwhile, is the favorite of her long-time partner, Dolphy, according to Zsa Zsa.

"THIS IS THE MOMENT." Anna Fegi performs at Hard Rock.

She also does her own takes at **Lloyd Umali**'s "Bakit Kung Sino Pa?," **Richard Reynoso**'s "Paminsan-Minsan" and **Randy Santiago**'s "Hindi Magbabago."

"Time In a Bottle" is a sentimental favorite for Zsa Zsa.

"With that song, I remember the high moments in my life," she says. "You have to treasure every important moment and live for that."

Other selections are "Too Young," "More Than Just the Two of Us," "Feelings," "Skyline Pigeon," "Shadow of Time" and "Tuloy Pa Rin."

Zsa Zsa sings a bonus cut, "Di Ko na Kayang Masaktan Pa," also by Ogie Alcasid.

She is set to do an MTV for the carrier single and title track, to be megged by young film director **Quark Henares.**

"I don't want it to be a sexy MTV," Zsa Zsa asserts. "I don't want the audience to remember it just because I showed my cleavage or I displayed a lot of skin. We'll try to make it different."

Zsa Zsa is excited to work with Quark, who made his directorial film debut with "Gamitan." He won the rock video of the year for Pin-Up Girls' "Down," during the NU 107 Rock Awards late last year.

Zsa Zsa completed her latest album amidst a frenzy of other commitments.

"I recorded the album while doing 'Morning Girls' and 'Asap' on TV, shooting my Manila Film Festival entry with Dolphy, 'Home Alone da Riber' and rehearsing for 'Diva to Diva,' my concert with Kuh (Ledesma)," Zsa Zsa offers.

"But I was able to finish the album in only two months."

Zsa Zsa attests the last quarter of 2002 turned out to be really heavy for her in terms of commitments.

"I rested during the first few months of 2002," Zsa Zsa says. "But it seemed I was given so many things to do in the latter part. *Parang bumawi lang ako.* You don't know what will really come, so you just have to grab each moment."

Zsa Zsa is relieved that her daily morning program on ABS-CBN, "Morning Girls," will fold up and air its final episode today.

"I want to do other things and a daily morning show is simply too taxing for me," Zsa Zsa says.

She is planning to produce for ABS-CBN a TV special for Dolphy's birthday in July. With **Eric Quizon**, she is planning another project in line with Dolphy's birthday.

Sex-comedy

CHECK out Tanghalang Pilipino's latest production, "Rhythm Method," a wholesome sex comedy that discusses heavy issues like abortion, family, the status of women in society and even science in a very light manner.

Gala is at 8 tonight at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Huseng Batute. The play will run until Feb. 2.

"Rhythm Method" is originally a play by Japanese playwrights **Iijima Sanae** and **Suzuki Yumi**, translated in Filipino by award-winning playwright **Rody Vera.**

The play is being presented with the support of the Japan Foundation Manila office.

For inquiries, call 832-3661.

Major solo concert

TALENT manager **Bibsy Carballo**, who handles the career of singer **Anna Fegi**, sent a text message to inform that Anna's classical pop concert, "The Voice, The Piano and The Sea," on board Superstar Leo on Jan. 29 to Feb. 2, has been postponed for summer.

NEW TWIST TO OLD HITS. Zsa Zsa Padilla releases a 15-track, all-revivals album.

Anna was supposed to be joined by pianist Raul Sunico in the musical adventure on the high seas.

But Anna's major solo concert at Hard Rock Café, "This Is the Moment," will go on as scheduled on Jan. 25, 9:30 p.m.

Anna's special guests are the Side A band and the Manoeuvres Dancers.

Also joining Anna in the show is the talented youthful Legato Strings quintet, with veteran session musicians under the musical direction of **Toti Fuentes**, who is Anna's mentor.

"This Is the Moment" is a benefit for Bigay Pagmamahal Foundation.

MMFFP ASSESSMENT

Malonzo: Quality local films stand a chance against Hollywood flicks

By Marinel R. Cruz

DESPITE the controversies that hounded his chairmanship of the recently concluded Metro Manila Film Festival Philippines (MMFFP), Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo refuses to consider himself a failure.

As far as Malonzo is concerned, he was able to help overcome the slump in the movie industry.

He said he felt proud of the fact that the nine movie entries earned a total of P314.7 million at the box office, by far the biggest in the festival's 28-year history.

"With this result, *dapat mapahiya ang mga* detractors ko," said the irrepressible filmfest chair.

"Before the recent filmfest, the biggest return was in 1999 when the filmfest grossed some P160 million," Malonzo said. "The 2001 festival was not even able to beat that with P147 million."

Unlike the 2001 festival which featured seven movie entries shown only in Manila theaters, the 2002 festival had nine movies shown nationwide.

It was the first time the filmfest had a nationwide scope, with the movies shown in key cities around the country like Cebu, Davao and Pampanga.

Malonzo said the most successful among the movie entries were OctoArts Films' "Lastikman" and MaQ Productions' "Spirit Warriors 2: The Short Cut," which were both shown on Jan. 1, seven days later than the other entries.

"Lastikman" and "Spirit Warriors" came in second and fourth, respectively, on the festival's ranking of the nine movie entries. The 2002 film fest ran from Dec. 25 to Jan. 10.

Malonzo said he has received reports that the total amount that "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" earned on its first screening day was P17 million, which is P1 million short of the combined P18-million earnings that "Lastikman" and "Spirit Warriors" acquired when the two movies opened on New Year's Day.

"Let's assume that it took OctoArts and MaQ Productions a total of P100 million to produce the two films. Don't you think that outdoing 'Lord of the Rings,' which probably cost over P1 billion to produce, is an accomplishment?" Malonzo said.

He said the favorable result of the festival only proved that good-quality Filipino movies could stand a chance against big Hollywood films shown here in the country.

The Top 5 movies that did well at the tills during the 17-day festival run catered to young audiences, Malonzo noted.

He said that while it is obvious that "Lastikman," "Spirit Warriors" and third placer "Agimat" were made for kids, top grosser "Mano Po" and fifth placer "Dekada '70" drew in the crowd because they both chose to focus on the family.

He added that films on sex and violence only cater to the male audience, while wholesome movies have the entire family as their captive audience.

"If people in the industry would only concentrate on making exceptional and wholesome films, then maybe we could eradicate box-office slump," Malonzo said.

Filmmaking workshop

PLUSIMINUS Film Camp, a group of young innovative and progressive filmmakers, will hold workshops on filmmaking and photography from February until May this year.

The filmmaking workshop includes subjects on film directing, cinematography, acting, production design, production management, scriptwriting, videography and photography.

PlusiMinus Film Camp has on its roster of members Palanca award winning writer Dodi Anzures, award-winning actress Angie Ferro, UP film lecturer Eduardo Piano, among others.

Other noted filmmakers have also been tapped to share their knowledge in the workshop.

The workshops will be held at Unit 302 CKSY Diamond Bldg., 156 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Pasay City and at Don Bosco Gym in Betterliving, Parañaque.

For more inquiries, call 834-1163 or 824-3027.

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HALF PAST DEAD	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:40	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:20, 4:00, 11:20	Onstage JOSE MARI CHAN - HEART OF A SONG WRITER Jan. 17 - 18 / 9PM	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS 12:50, 4:20, 7:50, 11:20	THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS
THE LORD OF THE RINGS: TWO TOWERS	HALF PAST DEAD		HALF PAST DEAD 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	HALF PAST DEAD
	HEAVEN		THE RING (HOLLYWOOD) 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
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6 GOLD (SDDS)	HALF PAST DEAD
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4	THE RING
5	MANO PO
6	BANGKERO
7 (DTS)	HEAVEN
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2	RESERVE

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(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1	KERIDA
2	LASTIKMAN
3	BANGKERO
4 (SDDS)	HALF PAST DEAD
5	THE RING
6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
7 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RING
8	MANO PO
9	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	BANGKERO
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS)	THE RING
4 (DOLBY)	HALF PAST DEAD
5	KERIDA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BANGKERO
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RING
4	KERIDA
5 (SDDS)	THE RING

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LORD OF THE RING

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LORD OF THE RING

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KERIDA
Lords	BANGKERO
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	BANGKERO
4	LASTIKMAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
2	BANGKERO
3	THE RING
4	HALF PAST DEAD
5	KERIDA

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	DEKADA '70
2	

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KERIDA
2	HULA MO HULI KO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	LASTIKMAN
2	KERIDA
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HALF PAST DEAD
4 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
6	HEAVEN
7	MANO PO

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821,8242,8400

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 ; 534.2198

1	KERIDA
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
4	HALF PAST DEAD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THE RING
2 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
3 (DTS)	HALF PAST DEAD
4	LASTIKMAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	LIKE MIKE
2	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3 (DOLBY)	LASTIKMAN
4	RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	LASTIMAN
2	KERIDA
3 (DOLBY)	LONG TIME DEAD
4	SWIM FAN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	LONG TIME DEAD
2 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
3	KERIDA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	BANGKERO
3 (DTS)	THE RING
4	HALF PAST DEAD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RING
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3 (DTS)	LASTIKMAN
4	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
5	THE RING

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LASTIKMAN
3	KERIDA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	THE RING

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	BROTHER HOOD OF THE WOLF
2	LAPU LAPU
3 (DTS)	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4	LASTIKMAN

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
2	LASTIKMAN
3	MASARAP NA PUGAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LASTIKMAN
2	SPIRIT WARRIOR THE SHORT CUT
3	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4	LONG TIME DEAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LORD OF THE RING
2	LASTIKMAN
3 (DTS ES)	THE RING
4	HALF PAST DEAD

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 322-3571

1	LASTIKMAN
2	LORD OF THE RING
3 (DOLBY)	HALF PAST DEAD
4	LORD OF THE RING

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Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72

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THE TWO TOWERS
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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173888

1	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6	LASTIKMAN
7	BANGKERO
8	MANO PO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	BANGKERO
5	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
6	LASTIKMAN
7	HALF PAST DEAD
8	HEAVEN
9	MANO PO
10	KERIDA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	HEAVEN
2	DEKADA '70
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5	MANO PO
6	LASTIKMAN
7	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
9	HALF PAST DEAD
10	KERIDA
11	BANGKERO
12	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	HEAVEN
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7	BANGKERO
8	LASTIKMAN
9	RING (JAPANESE)
10	RING (JAPANESE)
11	MANO PO
12	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM MEGAMALL
6331801 • 6329401

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
5	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6	HEAVEN
7	RING (JAPANESE)
8	KERIDA
9	MANO PO
10	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
11	LASTIKMAN
12	BANGKERO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	RING (JAPANESE)
2	MANO PO
3	LASTIKMAN
4	HEAVEN
5	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6	HALF PAST DEAD
7	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	BANGKERO
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	LASTIKMAN
5	MANO PO
6	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
7	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
8	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
9	HEAVEN
10	KERIDA

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	REPLI-KATE
3	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4	LIKE MIKE
5	LASTIKMAN
6	UNFAITHFUL CONCUBINE
7	MANO PO
8	HALF PAST DEAD

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	VAMPS
2	CLOSED
3	SWIMFAN
4	MANO PO
	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
7	CLOSED
8	LASTIKMAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2	LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
5	HALF PAST DEAD
6	LASTIKMAN

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
2	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
3	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
4	HALF PAST DEAD

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	BANGKERO
3	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4	LASTIKMAN

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS
2	SWIMFAN
3	MANO PO
4	CHARLOTTE GRAY
5	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
6	LOTR : THE TWO TOWERS

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS
2	HALF PAST DEAD
3	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD)
4	LOTR: THE TWO TOWERS

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1	THE RING
2	LIKE MIKE
3	REPLI-KATE
4	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1	THE RING (HOLLYWOOD VERSION) 10:00 FS/10:15 MF/12:35/2:55/5:15/7:35/ 9:25 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:50 END
2	LORD OF THE RINGS: The Two Towers 11:30 FS/12:00 MF/3:40/7:20/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/2:10 END

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3	HEAVEN
4	LORD OF THE RINGS II
5	THE RING US VERSION
6	LORD OF THE RINGS II
7	RING JAPANESE VERSION
8	HALF PAST DEAD
9	DEKADA '70
10	MANO PO

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Ermita
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1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	THE RING US VERSION
3	HEAVEN
4	RING (JAPANESE VERSION)
5	HALF PAST DEAD
6	LORD OF THE RINGS II
7	LORD OF THE RINGS II

Metro East - Marcos hway
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1	HEAVEN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS II
3	LORD OF THE RINGS II
4	THE RING US VERSION
5	HALF PAST DEAD
6	LORD OF THE RINGS II
7	LORD OF THE RINGS II
8	LASTIKMAN

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	LORD OF THE RINGS II
3	LASTIKMAN
4	HEAVEN
5	HALF PAST DEAD
6	MANO PO
7	THE RING US VERSION
8	SPIRIT WARRIORS

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	LORD OF THE RINGS II
3	HALF PAST DEAD
4	LASTIKMAN

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
3	THE RING US VERSION
4	LASTIKMAN
5	LORD OF THE RINGS II
6	LORD OF THE RINGS II

Imus
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1	LORD OF THE RINGS II
2	LASTIKMAN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS II
4	HALF PAST DEAD
5	BANGKERO
6	THE RING US VERSION

Sta. Rosa Laguna

1	HALF PAST DEAD
2	LORD OF THE RINGS II
3	THE RING US VERSION
4	MANO PO
5	LASTIKMAN

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	THE RING US VERSION
2	REPLI-KATE
3	MANO PO
4	MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
5	HULA MO HULI KO
6	DOUBLE SEDUCTION

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	THE RING US VERSION
2	SWIMFAN
3	VAMPS
4	LASTIKMAN
5	BROTHERHOOD OF WOLF
6	MANO PO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

SHOWS

Lani adds color to Sinulog festival

SINULOG Festival in Cebu City gets another colorful hue as song goddess Lani Misalucha weaves her spell anew over the Queen City of the South, with the second leg of the 2003 "Crossover Live Tour."

Lani, fresh from the resounding kick-off of 105.1 Crossover's road tour in Bacolod last Saturday, will perform at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel tomorrow, Jan. 18. Her show coincides with the city's most anticipated celebration, the Sinulog.

Hitmaker Ogie Alcasid, who is Lani's cohost in GMA 7's Sunday noontime show, "SoP," will join her in the Cebu concert.

Direction is by Rowell Santiago, musical direction by Louie Ocampo, script by Noel Ferrer, styling by Nemy Rafanan and outfits by Maxie Cinco.

After Cebu, Lani is out to conquer Davao on Jan. 25. She reunites with Ogie on Feb. 1 at the Freedom Ring Ampitheater, Expo Pilipino Complex in Pampanga.

Lani will conclude her "Crossover Live Tour," with a major concert at Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 8. Special guest is Ai-Ai de las Alas.

The Venue

THE Venue, the hottest nightlife destination in Davao City, presents DJ Steve Bamford of US tomorrow night, Jan. 18.

Davaoeños are in for an exciting show with DJ Bamford who will play cutting-edge music concentrated on tough breakbeat and the best of UK's dark tribal progressive house.

On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, "Women of Library" features female comic divas Sherly, Joyce, Eva, Jo and Maris, who will showcase their own style.

For inquiries, call (082) 224-4150 or 225-3825.

'70s music

MULTI-TALENTED pop singer Rannie Raymundo teams up with folk duo Mon Espia and Koko Marbella of Labuyo, for a night of '70s music at My Brother's Mustache Malate, Jan. 18.

Rannie awed an intimate audience with his percussion genius using unorthodox instruments at My Bro's Mustache Quezon City last year. This time, he displays his flair for percussions before My Brother's Mustache Malate to delight the Manila crowd.

Expect a night of folk and blues music, with Rannie complementing the acoustic renditions of Labuyo, formerly a band of four formed in 1978, who churned out the pop hit, "Tuloy Pa Rin."

Also performing are vocalist and guitarist Helen Burdeos of Silk and Steel and base guitarist Kim Lesaca of Parliament Syndicate.

My Brother's Mustache Malate is on 615 Nakpil St. Show starts 9 p.m., right after "hippie" hour.

Ladine on Valentine

AFTER bagging the much-coveted "Voice of Asia" award in Kazakhstan last year, Ladine Roxas performs in a one-night only concert, "Ladine on Valentine Evening," 9 p.m. on Feb. 14 at the grand ballroom of the Century Park Hotel.

Special guest is the popular boy band Jeremiah. Cocktails at 7 p.m. Show at 9:30 p.m.

"How Can I Make You Love Me?," Ladine's first album for Candid Records, leaves no question that the native of Limay, Bataan, is on her way to big things.

Ladine is in the country briefly, to also perform at Makati's new favorite haunt, Café Lupe. She sang at Café Lupe on Dec. 2 and will perform there again tomorrow night, Jan. 18, with her final show on Feb. 22.

ROXAS. To perform at Century Park.

Candid Records, which has mainstream pop offerings, came to the Philippines in 2001 in search of talents.

Candid has been a respected name among jazz fans for more than 40 years, producing the records of such top jazz acts as Charles Mingus, Abbey Lincoln and Cecil Taylor. It will release the new albums of Stacey Kent in February and Jamie Cullum in March.

Candid Records CEO Alan Bates realizes that the Philippines has plenty of singing talent that just need to be given the right exposure.

Ladine's big break came when Candid executives somehow got hold of her first album and brought it back to London. That led to "How Can I Make You Love Me?," the first of three albums she will cut for Candid.

Star City

FREESTYLE performs in a free concert at the Aliw Theater, Star City Complex, Pasay City, 9 tonight, as part of the Manila Broadcasting Company concert series.

Tracing their roots to Davao City, Freestyle has come a long way from their first gig at the Apo View Hotel.

The group is composed of Jinky (vocals), Top Suzara (vocals), Tat Suzara (guitars), Carlo Tapia (bass), Gerald Banzon (drums) and Nikki Cabardo (keyboards).

Freestyle has come up with a collection of OPM hits that include "Before I Let You Go," "So Slow" and "This Time."

The concert is sponsored by Modess, Tekki Yakiudon and Cowboy Grill.

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 22 only at
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFFKEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

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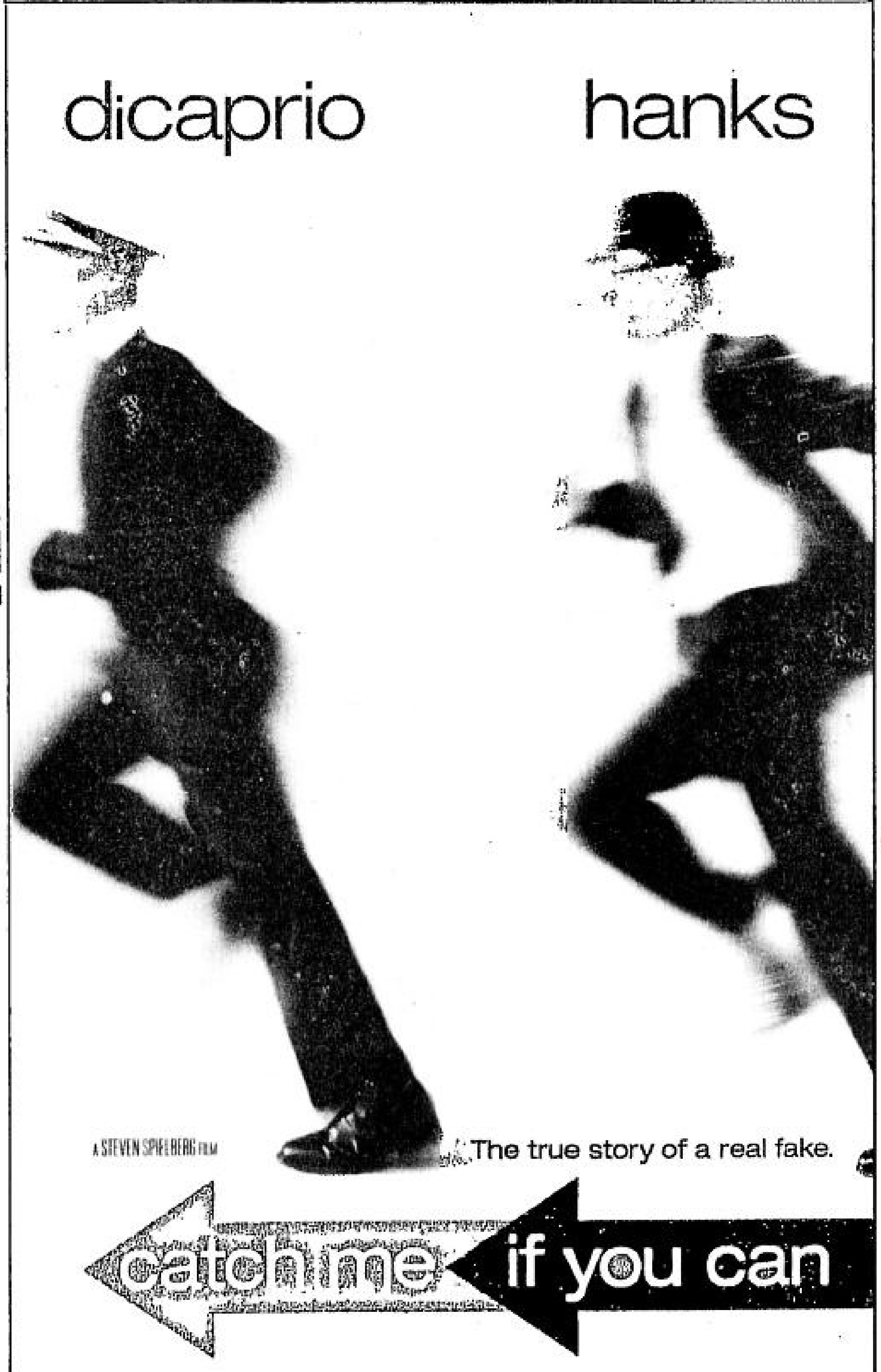
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The true story of a real fake.
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CATCH THEM ON JANUARY 29
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Legrand: I want to bring Regine to another planet

Q & A

OSCAR-WINNING composer, arranger, conductor, singer and artist extraordinaire Michel Legrand is no stranger to Filipinos.

His timeless works ("Windmills of Your Mind," "(If It Takes Forever) I Will Wait for You," "How Do You Keep the Music Playing," Papa Can You Hear Me?," "Happy," among others) are big favorites of many Pinoys.

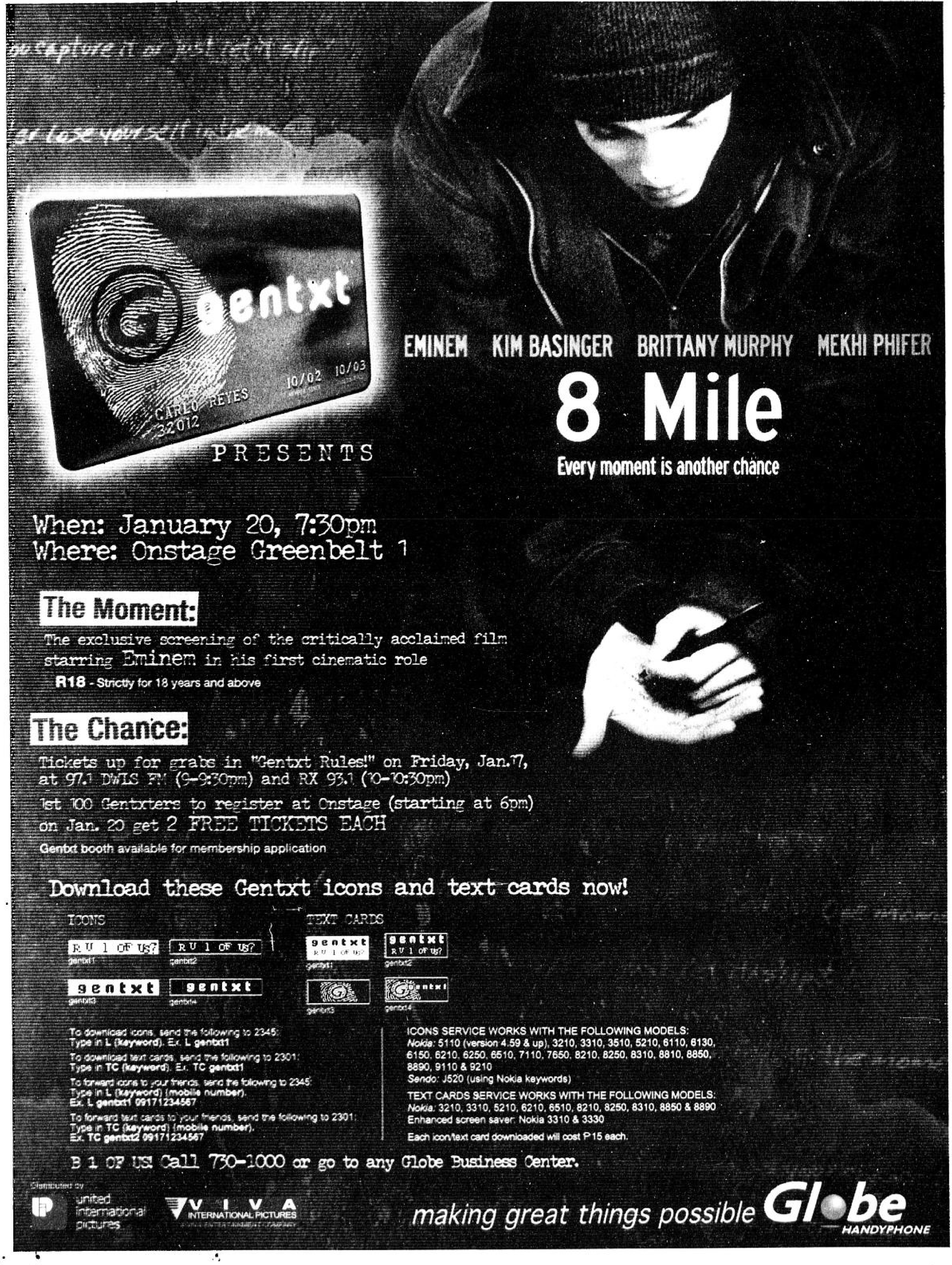
And Legrand is no stranger to Philippine talent. Last year in Manila, in a concert at the PICC produced by Maxi Media, he performed with Kuh Ledesma and Bituin Escalante.

Legrand recently announced plans to record a CD with another Filipino talent, Regine Velasquez. But before the album is released, Legrand will perform in another concert in Manila, this time with Regine in "Songbird Sings Legrand," Feb. 14 and 15 at the PICC Plenary Hall. They will be backed by the 60 piece San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

The following is a conversation between Legrand and a prominent Filipino businessman, conducted in Paris.

LEGRAND/ A28

MUSIC MAN. Legrand says coming to Manila is like coming back home.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8 Mile

Every moment is another chance

When: January 20, 7:30pm
Where: Onstage Greenbelt 1

The Moment:

The exclusive screening of the critically acclaimed film starring Eminem in his first cinematic role

R18 - Strictly for 18 years and above

The Chance:

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1st 100 Gentxters to register at Onstage (starting at 6pm) on Jan. 20 get 2 FREE TICKETS EACH

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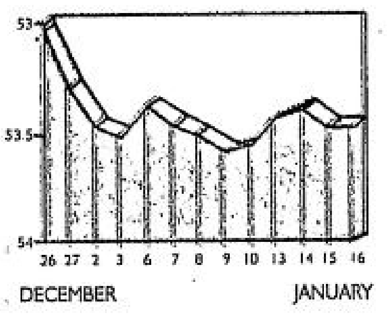
CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.47 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 16, 2003

¥ 118.04 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 16, 2003

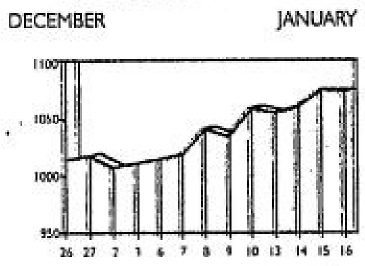
GOLD: $351.00-351.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 16, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks edge lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES ended slightly lower yesterday as recent bargain hunting, which pushed the main index to a nine-week high on Wednesday, ran out of steam, traders said.

Earlier, they had warned that the main index had been due for a technical correction as prices neared a recent strong resistance mark of 1,080 points.

"We saw some profit taking in the later part of the session which pushed us back into the red. It seems that the technical (resistance) level seems to have been respected," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities.

The potential threat of a war in Iraq was keeping investors cautious and quick to take profits on any market upturn, he said.

The main index closed down 1.02 points, or 0.09 percent, at 1,074.45 points after touching a high for the day of 1,082.01 points.

Turnover reached P357.64 million from Wednesday's P531.9 million. Decliners led advancers 29 to 18, with 43 stocks unchanged, reflecting the lukewarm market interest.

Losses by the Lopez family-controlled Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) as well as Ayala group stocks, pressured the broad market.

Meralco B-shares ended down 75 centavos, or 5.45 percent, at P13.

The stock has staged a technical rebound in recent weeks after touching an historic low late last year, but Plana said investors now wanted to lock in gains, specially those who bought the shares in December when they were trading below P10.

"Anyone who bought at those levels and sold out now has made a 30 to 35 percent gain," he said.

Meralco A-shares were also off, sliding 60 centavos, or 6 percent, to P9.40.

Reuters

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday warned of a new round of oil price increases as world crude prices again reached a two-year high despite Opec's announcement of increased output.

Perez said world oil prices have recently become very erratic in response to different global events.

The official was referring to the crippling stike of oil workers in Venezuela, the world's fifth-largest oil exporter.

He also noted the continuous threat of a US-led war against Iraq, which normally produces about 2 million barrels of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' daily output of 23 million barrels.

Opec had earlier announced it would increase production by 1.5 million barrels a day to compensate for shrinking exports from Venezuela.

But industry analysts were worried Opec might not be able to adjust—as easily as it had with regard to Venezuela—production levels in case of a war in Iraq.

The Department of Energy said world crude prices have jumped again to a two-year high in the last few days after a brief recovery earlier this month.

Dubai crude prices kicked up to $27.89 a barrel on Wednesday from $27.30 on Tuesay. Prices averaged at $27.02 in the first half of January.

"Local prices are not isolated from global trends," Perez said. "We might see domestic prices follow international prices."

But the energy chief urged local oil firms not to take advantage of the situation.

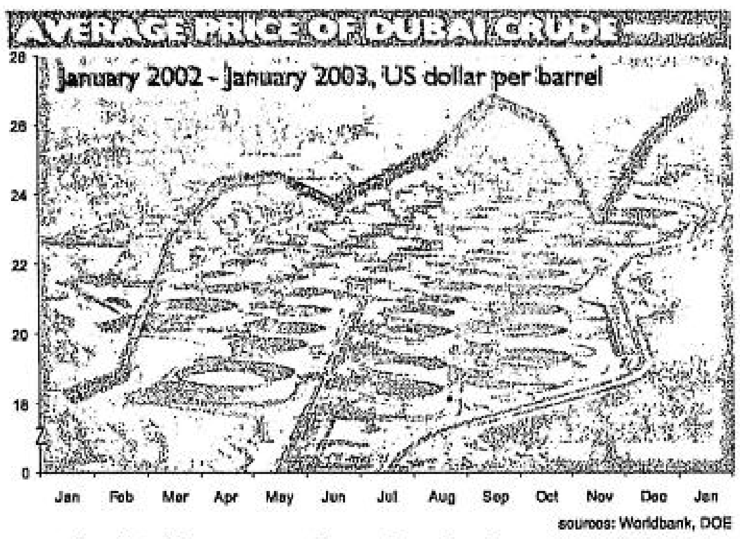
Last week, local oil executives said a second round of price increases was expected within the month. Prices have gone up by 49 centavos per liter.

In other developments, the Big Three oil firms said they have submitted to the Manila City Hall a report on the progress of scaling down their operations in Pandacan.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex (Philippines) Inc. said in a joint statement the submission of the report was a requirement in connection with their request for the renewal of their business permits.

The oil majors have brought down two liquefied petroleum gas spheres and 11 vertical tanks, which make up about half of the 28 tanks they committed for removal.

AVERAGE PRICE OF DUBAI CRUDE



sources: Worldbank, DOE

SUPPLY NETWORK

Japan firm picks Subic as hub

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

OMRON Corp. of Japan, one of the world's leading makers of mechatronics and sensors, is expanding its Subic factory in line with its decision to make the Philippines its main manufacturing plant outside of Japan.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicito Payumo said that Omron has pushed up its total investments to P2.2 billion since it started operations at the Subic Technopark 5 years ago.

Payumo said Omron had to pump in new money into Subic after the Japanese firm chose Subic as its hub for the supply of Omron's worldwide business. Omron has 15 overseas plants and 18 factories in Japan.

He said Omron Corp. chair Yoshio Tateishi was set to arrive in Subic on Jan. 20 to visit the new plant and announce the new role of Omron Mechatronics Philippines to its overall operations.

Omron initially manufactured parts for automated teller machines (ATMs) and it has since expanded its plant to cover the entire cash-dispensing unit. Other products produced in its local plant are ticket-vending machines, wire harness and module components unit.

Omtron emerged as the third biggest exporter out of Subic with $19.4 million worth of shipments registered last year after Wistron Infocomm (Philippines) Corp.'s $1.057 billion and Sanyo Denki's $40 million.

Omron's plant sits on a 30,000-square meter lot with a total workforce of 844 as of last year.

BSP keeps policy rates unchanged

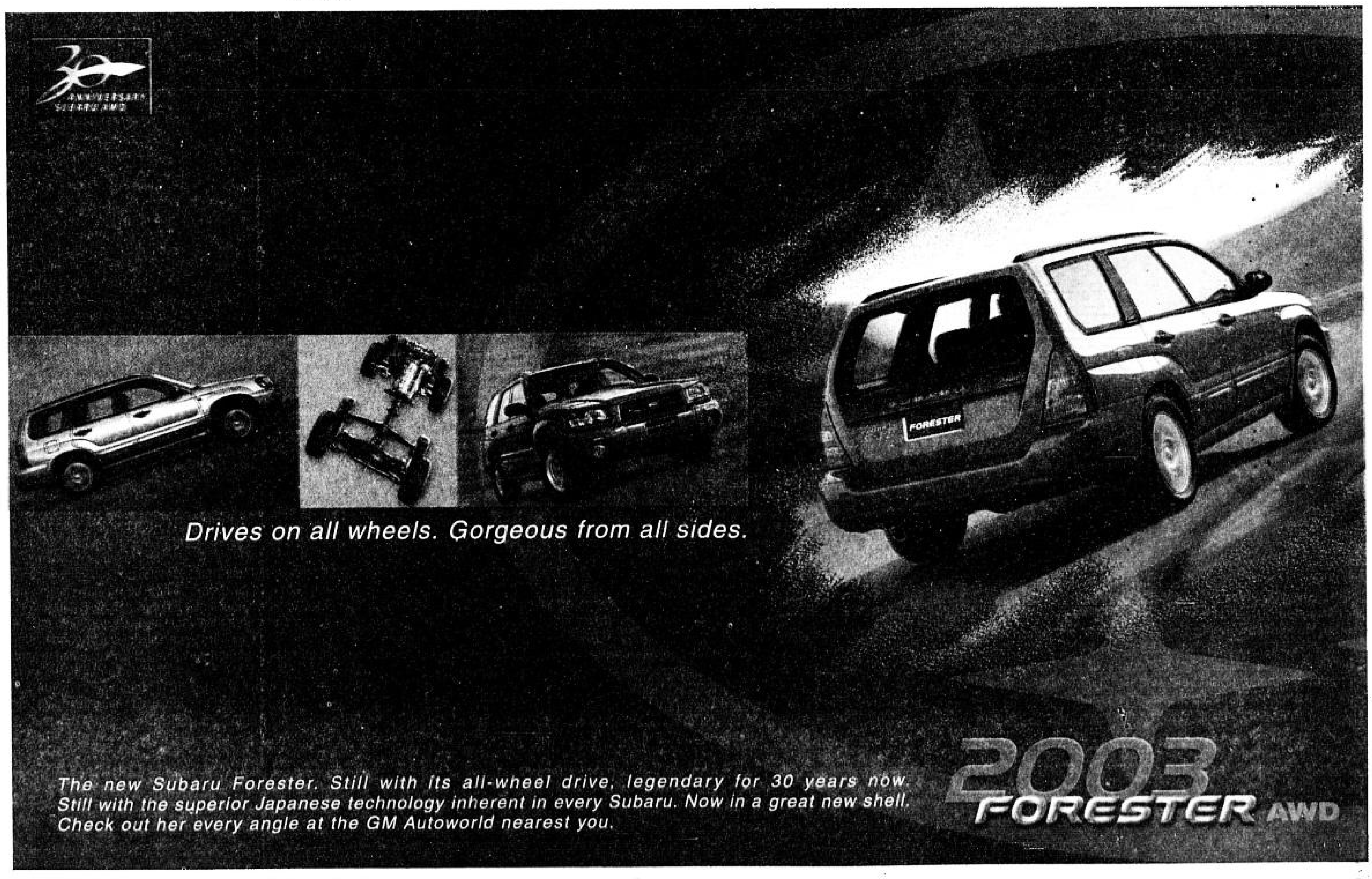
By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday kept overnight rates unchanged following stable consumer prices and the need to stimulate the domestic economy through modest interest rates.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said that monetary authorities would try to keep overnight rates at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending for the rest of the year. The decade-low rates have been steady since March 15, 2002.

In a press statement, the Monetary Board noted that risks to inflation called on a cautious monetary stance-neutralized by mixed signals on the strength of the domestic economy.

BSP/ B3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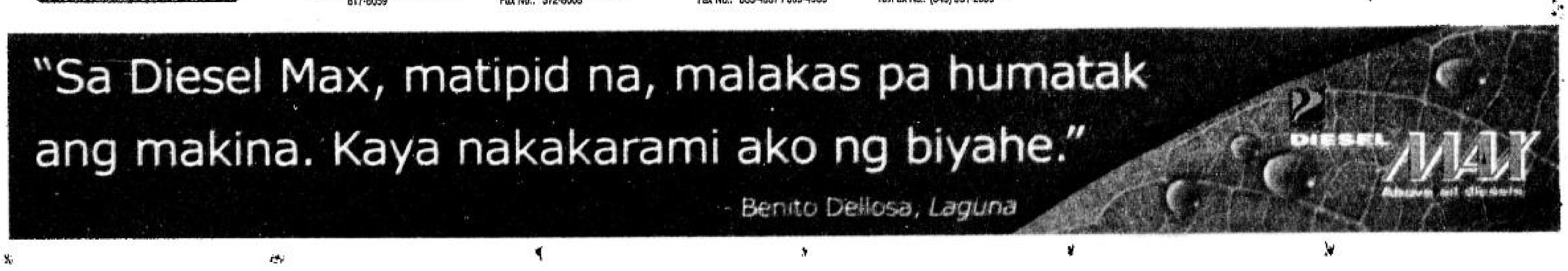
"Sa Diesel Max, matipid na, malakas pa humatak ang makina. Kaya nakakarami ako ng biyahe."
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DIESEL MAX
Above all diesels

Tariff body starts hearing farmers' petition

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE TARIFF Commission will hold a public hearing next week to decide on a petition by local farmers groups to raise tariffs on vegetable imports to the maximum bound rate under the World Trade Organization of 40 percent or nearly six times the prevailing rate of 7 percent.

The tariff hike petition, which has already obtained the full backing of the Department of Agriculture, is just the latest in a string of policy moves by the Macapagal administration to close down the floodgate of vegetable imports pouring in from China and Taiwan.

The President has already ordered the DA to cease the issuance of import permits for vegetable products and the Bureau of Plant Industry to temporarily stop the issuance of plant quarantine certificates.

The vegetable products being petitioned for the maximum bound rate of 40 percent are leeks and other alliaceous vegetables; cauliflower and headed broccoli; lettuce and chicory; carrots, turnips, salad beetroot, salsify, radishes and other similar edible roots; cucumbers and gherkins; peas; beans; celery; fruits of the genus Capsicum/Pimenta; spinach; vegetables, provisionally preserved; peel of citrus fruits or melons; and ginger.

Prices of these vegetables have fallen sharply in the past years due to unabated smuggling and lowering of tariffs in line with the country's WTO commitments.

Since tariffs on vegetables have been cut to an average of 12 percent in 1999, vegetable imports have surged from 10,000 kilos in 1999 to 1.1 million kilos in 2000 and 2 million kilos in 2001.

Aside from increasing the duties on vegetables, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said that his department would also push for the inclusion of these products under the sensitive list of commodities. Such a move will provide these products with more protections, particularly in the form of quota restrictions.

The Tariff Commission is also scheduled to hear a petition by the farmers' groups to include more agriculture inputs and equipment in the list of items eligible for duty-free perks under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act.

PNOC starts drilling in Leyte

BURAUEN, Leyte—Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) started on Monday its geothermal steam exploration in Barangay Matin-ao, 17 km. south of this town, hoping to strike a huge reserve that could help the country become self-sufficient in energy.

If the exploration proved successful, it could mean that Leyte would again be the source of one of the country's biggest source of power distributed to Luzon and the Visayas.

A PNOC-commissioned geological study conducted in Barangay Matin-ao four years ago provided indications that there is a vast reserve of steam in the area, enough to generate power similar to what is now being generated in Barangay Tongonan in the town of Kananga, according to PNOC-Kananga resident manager Jesus Quevenco.

"This (Barangay Matin-ao exploration site) is supposed to be a mirror image of Tongonan. That means, potentially, it is possible to duplicate the one that we have in Tongonan which is about 500 megawatts," Quevenco told the INQUIRER.

The study revealed that the area has a potential of 500 megawatts. The Matin-ao exploration, which covers 1.5 hectares, is being undertaken at a cost of more than P53 million, Quevenco said. *Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Smart, Air21 sign deal

LOGISTICS firm Air21, a subbrand of Airfreight 2100 Inc., has signed an agreement with cellular service provider Smart Communications Inc. that would enable its clients to track the status of their shipments.

The agreement signed last month would allow subscribers of Smart and sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk 'N Text to monitor the location of their packages sent through Air21 through text messaging.

"This is one way for us to manage our customers' needs and offer excellent services," Airfreight 2100 chair Alberto Lina said in a statement yesterday. "We shall provide them solutions to their domestic logistics requirements through the Air21 brand."

Under the agreement, Smart or Talk 'N Text subscribers who send packages through Air21 just have to key in Air21 and their airway bill number and send this message to 288 to get real-time information on their packages. *Abigail L. Ho*

children's hour

LANDBANK DONATION TO CHILDREN'S HOUR
Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves (3rd from left) turns over to Children's Hour chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (3rd from right) the bank's second donation to Children's Hour worth P762,948. The amount was collected from the bank's 7,000 employees. With them are Landbank vice president for manpower Fe Sandoval and executive vice president Gilda Pico (1st and 2nd from left) and Children's Hour steering committee members Pedro Roxas and Mayan Quebral (1st and 2nd from right).

NTC urged to resolve FM row

BROADCASTING firm Media One Broadcasting Corp. (Media One) is pressing for a resolution on the proposed changes to the separation standard in the FM spectrum, saying the move will hasten the growth of the radio industry in the country.

Media One vice president for legal affairs Sheila Quien, said in a statement that there was no technical impediment in shortening the gap between FM stations from 800 kilohertz (khz) to 400 khz.

Media One also expressed willingness to conduct another test broadcast if only to prove that a narrower space between two FM radio stations would not result in poor-quality reception.

"Our own test broadcast last August proved that at a 400-kilohertz separation, there is no interference to other stations nor to listeners using existing radio receivers, Media One vice president for legal affairs Sheila Quien said in a statement yesterday.

"We have signed documents from our adjacent station and the (National Telecommunications Commission) attesting to this. This is a fact that the (Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas) conveniently ignores. *Abigail L. Ho*

GOINGS-ON

US supplies available

CTRADE, a Seattle-based trading firm, recently opened its doors to Philippine-based businesses, providing easy and affordable access to a host of US supplies—from raw materials to heavy equipment.

Owned and operated by Filipino businessman Fernando Delgado, CTrade brings quality US-made materials closer to Philippine shores by offering purchasing services for a fee that is either on a per project basis or a fixed retainer based on the work required or on the frequency of requirements.

If the items required are readily available, CTrade ships them from the US to the Philippines in a week, working with very reliable forwarders with the best freight rates. A rush order can be delivered across the Pacific within two working days if the required supplies are available.

Internet access

DIGITELONE recently inked a deal to provide dedicated Internet access to the University of Sto. Tomas and San Juan de Letran College-Calamba. DigitelOne upgrades these schools' current Internet bandwidth to allow more students to access the Internet faster.

UST and Letran are also spearheading an Internet network for affiliate schools of Dominican Network (DomNet). The plan is for the Dominican schools to be linked by one big network which will provide Internet access as well as intranet capabilities within the member schools. UST and Letran's choice of DigitelOne is indicative of its trust in DigitelOne's capability to provide the service DomNet will eventually need.

"We are excited to be spearheading something that might change the way our students receive education. With the package DigitelOne offered, we can finally give something our students will be able to afford," said UST's secretary general, Rev. Fr. Winston Cabading, O.P.

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 551-22-00, 522-00-00, 526-01-00

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 17, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,382,183,350
Due from Bangko Sentral		15,693,261,980
Due from Other Banks		1,763,116,518
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,870,057,427
Trading Account Securities (Net)		301,186,971
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		84,993,018,001
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)		95,681,882,595
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,907,638
Equity Investments (Net)		5,968,579,481
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,590,764,862
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,470,322,119
Others		9,670,836,517
TOTAL ASSETS	P	248,485,097,457
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	72,276,500,869
Savings Deposits		85,772,818,095
Time Deposits		17,682,448,379
Special/Other Deposits		784,607,560
Due to Bangko Sentral		78,133,303
Due to Banks		237,480,103
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,148,330,271
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		903,325,899
Interbank Borrowings		8,994,655,000
Deposits Substitutes		239,654,793
Others		25,184,532,286
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		2,985,819,407
Other Liabilities		12,343,428,571
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	227,629,730,536
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	9,700,000,000
Surplus		6,997,071,293
Surplus Reserves		3,661,412,077
Other Capital Accounts		496,883,551
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		20,855,366,921
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	248,485,097,457
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	5,564,779,448
Bills for Collection		753,333,536
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		222,406,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		7,551,346,282
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		11,343,119,759
Invested in		
- Government Securities		
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		8,832,809,791
- Loans and Discounts		85,006,651
- Other Assets		1,611,345,121
Accountabilities		2,813,958,196
- Trust and Other Fiduciary		
- Common Trust Funds		1,830,114,242
- Investment/Fund Management		2,265,118,455
Other Contingent Accounts		7,247,889,062
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		30,358,806,112
	P	55,791,791,135

Other Information

1. Deposits of		
a. Government	P	115,197,542,912
b. Banks		3,479,411,803
c. Trust Department		153,354,165
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law		
a. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		297.89%
b. Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		284.09%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		26,719,114,304
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		21.91 %
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		49,178,700,550
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		807,692,722
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		14,530,157,142
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		7.03%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,885,629,082
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		1.63%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		17,090

**Includes Loans classified as "Loss" which are fully covered by Allowance for Probable Losses amounting to P3,188,379,352.69*

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 14th day of January, 2003 in the City of Manila, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 12700369, issued in the City of Manila on January 3, 2003 and Residence Certificate No. 00607624 issued in the City of Manila on March 27, 2002.

RICARTE P. A. REY
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 6773327
Issued on January 23, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No. 410
Page No. 82
Book No. I
Series of 2003

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION

(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of December 17, 2002

ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Items	P	5,384,489,247
Due from Bangko Sentral		15,693,261,980
Due from Other Banks		1,858,782,288
Interbank Loans Receivable		10,870,057,427
Trading Account Securities (Net)		301,188,971
Investment in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		85,068,609,470
Loans and Discounts and Advances (Net)		95,633,081,151
Underwriting Accounts (Net)		110,907,638
Equity Investments (Net)		5,294,582,614
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		4,715,000,633
Other Assets (Net)		
Property Owned/Acquired		13,489,452,408
Others		10,894,658,523
TOTAL ASSETS	P	249,094,008,348
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	72,271,407,372
Savings Deposits		85,765,648,220
Time Deposits		17,682,448,379
Special/Other Deposits		784,607,560
Due to Bangko Sentral		78,133,303
Due to Banks		237,480,103
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		2,151,398,048
Bills Payable		
BSP-Rediscounting/Special Programs		903,325,899
Interbank Borrowings		8,994,655,000
Deposits Substitutes		239,654,793
Others		25,184,532,288
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		3,579,241,977
Other Liabilities		12,369,213,020
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	228,239,741,958
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	9,700,000,000
Surplus		6,904,219,276
Surplus Reserves		3,753,183,563
Other Capital Accounts		496,883,551
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		20,854,286,390
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	249,094,008,348
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	5,564,779,448
Bills for Collection		753,333,538
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		222,406,000
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		7,551,346,282
Assets Held under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		11,343,119,759
Invested in		
- Government Securities		8,832,809,791
- Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stocks		85,006,651
- Loans and Discounts		1,611,345,121
- Other Assets		2,813,958,196
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- Trust and Other Fiduciary		1,830,114,242
- Common Trust Funds		2,265,118,455
- Investment/Fund Management		7,247,889,062
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Other Information

1. Deposits of		
a. Government	P	115,197,542,912
b. Banks		3,479,411,803
c. Trust Department		153,354,165

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
   a. LBP Leasing Corporation
   b. LBP Financial Services, SPA
   c. LBP Remittance Co., USA

We, ANDRES C. SARMIENTO and MARGARITO B. TEVES of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above Consolidated Statement of Condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Sgd. ANDRES C. SARMIENTO
FVP-Controllership Group

Sgd. MARGARITO B. TEVES
President and CEO

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Until December 31, 2002
PTR No. 6773327
Issued on January 23, 2002
Makati City

Doc. No. 411
Page No. 83
Book No. I
Series of 2003

Member Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (Deposits insured up to P100,000.00)

Ople's IOU

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

HE MAY now be a member of the reformist GMA cabinet but Blas Ople still cannot seem to shed his debt-dodging ways.

The foreign secretary has chalked up more than P1.5 million in unpaid bills at the Manila Hotel as of yearend, but Ople's patron, hotel chair Emilio Yap, does not seem to be bothered.

(Come to think of it, Yap himself has refused to pay the government of the now about ₱700-million loan of the Manila Hotel, claiming it was the old hotel management, not him, who had incurred the debt from the government workers' pension fund.)

Ople's dining, wining, and room service expenses, all charged to his personal account, have remained unpaid since July 1998, at the start of the Estrada administration, Cocktales has confirmed.

Ople, whose Marcos-era housing loan with the Government Service Insurance System also remained unpaid even up to the time that he was a staunchly pro-Erap senator, was a long-time columnist for Yap's sequestered English language daily, the Manila Bulletin.

The foreign secretary is in good company, though, as far as Manila Hotel privileges are concerned.

The powerful Commission on Appointments enjoys three complimentary bay suites in the historic old wing of the hotel, where the Douglas McArthur suite is also located.

While in the hotel, all food and drinks consumed by the senators, congressmen, and their CA staff are, in turn, shouldered by the state-run gambling agency, Pagcor.

Pagcor, to its credit, has been prompt in paying the CA bills.

Why Pagcor has to feed the politicians escapes us.

Doctoral dissertations

IT SEEMS even the country's doctors are as much infected by politics as the politicians.

The Philippine Medical Association is in the midst of an electoral disqualification case now being heard at the Securities and Exchange Commission against its four-time president Homobono Calleja.

A disqualification case was filed by Jose Asa Sabili, governor for the Rizal PMA chapter, who said that Calleja was never president of a PMA component society like the Philippine College of Surgeons or Philippine College of Physicians to qualify for the PMA presidency.

In fact, it was during Calleja's presidency at PMA that the said qualification was adopted, said Sabili, adding that Calleja tried to seek the presidency again in 1999 but had to be disqualified precisely on the same ground.

Calleja is not without supporters though. Doctors Reynaldo.Echavez (ex-PMA national treasurer) and Lakandula Elayda (ex-secretary general) have asked the SEC to allow their ex-president to seek the presidency for the fifth time in the March 16 elections.

Instead of enlightening the doctors, the SEC added heat to the confusion when its new general counsel, Vernette Umali-Paco, initially ruled in favor of Calleja.

According to the grapevine, Umali-Paco reversed her position after being summoned in to the office of SEC Chair Lilia Bautista.

The new SEC ruling now says it is up to the PMA's commission on elections, not the SEC, to determine the qualification of candidates for the PMA election.

Lashing back at Lash

IN EARLY fall, attracted by an ad at the Village Voice, we accompanied a friend to a computer shop a block away from the New York City Hall.

Instead of a branded unit, we were steered into buying an unbranded unit, complete with pirated Microsoft Windows Millennium operating system, because of the unbeatable price.

Over at Chinatown, shops were doing a roaring trade palming off counterfeit perfumes (we picked up a "Davidoff Cool Water" for the heck of it), name-brand bags, and movie DVDs. Even the caps and T-shirts of the New York's Finest and the FBI were not spared!

These shopping expeditions came into mind in the light of the weekend lecturing by a parachuting US Assistant Secretary of Commerce against the Philippines for not, in his view, cracking hard enough against intellectual pirates.

Before the international media, William Lash, he of the appropriate surname, asked the GMA administration, already being targeted by Islamic extremists for its Bush-licking, to do more of Washington's bidding. Talk of geopolitical sensitivities. Talk of timing.

A few days later, the local police, by happenstance, raided a pirate's lair right inside a Muslim village. Lash, however, was no longer around to record the compliance, having hopped over to Bangkok to repeat the same trick he pulled out in Greenhills.

To make a long spiel short, if Lash wants to drive the pirates out, we'd be glad to enlist in his global war. We are, after all, still America's little brown brothers in this region of anti-American sentiment.

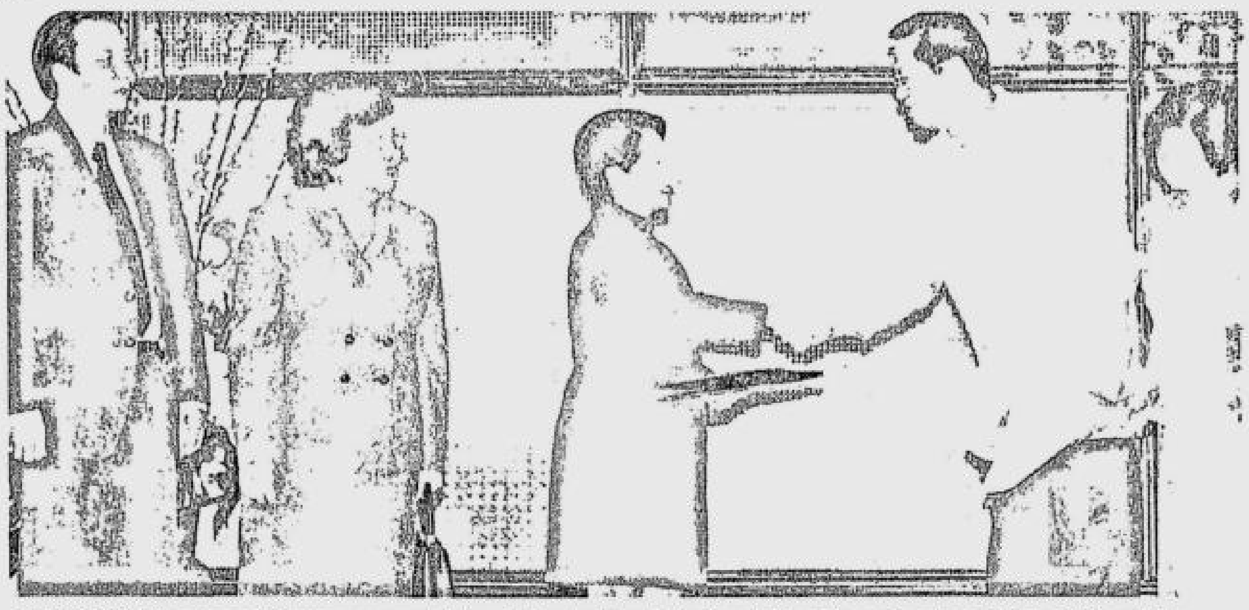
Here's the deal. Fly us to New York and we'll show you where we picked up the counterfeits. That way, we help clean up America's backyard, before bureaucrats like Lash poke their noses in other people's backyards.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER SEC Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr. has joined the legal defense of polo-playing playboy Albert "Bobby" Aguirre, along with other Aguirre counsels as Raul Roco, Manuel "Lolong" Lazaro, and GSIS chair Hermogenes Concepcion.

Yasay's expertise would come in handy in view of a new SEC complaint filed against Aguirre by minority shareholders led by Tommy Pea San Lim and his sister, Nancy Ty.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo congratulates Roberto Manabat after taking his oath as head of the Office of the General Accountant of the Securities and Exchange Commission during the mass oath-taking ceremony in Malacañang. Looking on are Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and SEC Chair Lilia Bautista. EDWIN BACASMAS

CONTROVERSIAL RULES

Delay seen in PSE polls

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE STOCKHOLDERS' meeting of the Philippine Stock Exchange in March to elect a new board will likely be postponed given delays in the approval of the bourse's nomination and election rules.

Securities and Exchange Commission market regulation department director Jose Aquino, who has also recently been appointed chair of the PSE's nominations and elections committee, said that some broker and non-broker members of the PSE board have objections to some provisions of the proposed rules.

"They do not want the nomelec to be shortlisting (candidates for the PSE board)," Aquino said. "So now we are looking for a legal basis."

Aquino said that the board has informally acknowledged that the PSE elections may have to be reset from March 8 to a later date as the objections have to be addressed.

Some PSE board directors did not agree with the provision that allowed the nomelec to set additional qualifications for candidate directors prior to the opening of nominations.

Some board directors, including Fr. Joaquin Bernas and former SEC associate commissioner Monico Jacob, said this was unconstitutional and went against the Corporation Code.

An objection was also raised against the provision granting the nomelec the power to "nominate" the broker candidates.

Aquino said that some of the PSE directors pointed out that it was the members or shareholders that will nominate and the nomelec should just see if they possessed the qualifications.

If those nominated do qualify then the broker candidates must be included in the final list of nominations.

Jacob has been tasked by the board to review the proposed nomelec rules.

It is hoped that the next elections of the PSE board will be less controversial than last year's following the recent promise of brokers and bitter rivals Vivian Yuchengco and Robert Coyiuto Jr. not to run for PSE chair.

Yuchengco won over Coyiuto for the post of PSE chair on the back of support from non-broker directors, who were not subject to elections by PSE broker-shareholders.

BSP keeps policy rates unchanged

From page B1

This meant that while pressures on consumers prices normally set a condition for higher policy rates, the need to continue providing a stimulus to the economy in the form of low interest rates was carefully balanced.

The central bank believed that rate cuts in the past have been working their way into the economy and have provided sufficient liquidity to spur modest growth.

"Loans outstanding of commercial banks have been on the rise in the past three months, ending with a 1.4 percent year-on-year increase in November," the central bank said.

Buenaventura said the first half would be a very challenging period for the economic managers due to the combined pressure of the brewing Middle East war, the drought that could disrupt farm production and the budget deficit.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week January 14, 2003	Last Week January 7, 2003
Prulink Bond Fund	1.04567	1.04183
Prulink Managed Fund	1.02384	1.00879

* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18 2002

Landbank reports net profit of ₱1.6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines is targeting a net income of P1.8 billion this year, higher by 12.5 percent compared to the expected P1.6 billion net earnings in 2002.

Landbank president Margarito Teves said the growth in profitability this year would be achieved on the back of lower provisioning for loan losses and an expected substantial cut in non-performing loans.

Officials of the country's fourth-largest bank in terms of assets and the biggest state-owned lender believed that net income in 2002 reached between P1.6 billion and P1.65 billion against P1.5 billion in 2001.

Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz said the bank had been averaging a monthly income of P150 million.

Teves said last week that the bank would sell P15 billion in bad loans and P5 billion in seized assets this year to an asset management company.

He said serious talks with Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Deutsche Bank AG, and Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. were ongoing.

Bad loans or those whose interest or principal remained unpaid for 90 days accounted for about 21 percent of Landbank's total loans.

A successful sale of soured loans and assets this year would cut the bank's NPL ratio to between 10 and 11 percent. Landbank said the 21-percent ratio corresponded to P26.3 billion in bad loans of which 58 percent were covered with loan-loss provisions.

Bank officials said they have been pushing for restructuring and collection of loans including a payment-in-kind arrangement to bring down the level of NPLs.

"We expect our bad loans to go down further in December after receiving payments from PT Citra, the company responsible for the Skyway project," Cruz said.

Teves said that this year, the bank would increase its total loan portfolio by 5.5 percent to P115 billion against P109 billion in 2002 and P105 billion in 2001.

The bank president said he hoped Landbank could dispose of P20 billion in loans and foreclosed assets within the first three quarters to finance a more aggressive farm lending strategy.

Agriculture loans accounted for about 45 percent of the bank's P109-billion portfolio in 2002, according to Teves.

Teves said the bank wanted to increase farm lending to 55 percent of total loans this year and 65 percent by 2004 to help develop the crucial agriculture sector that had been a big contributor to economic growth.

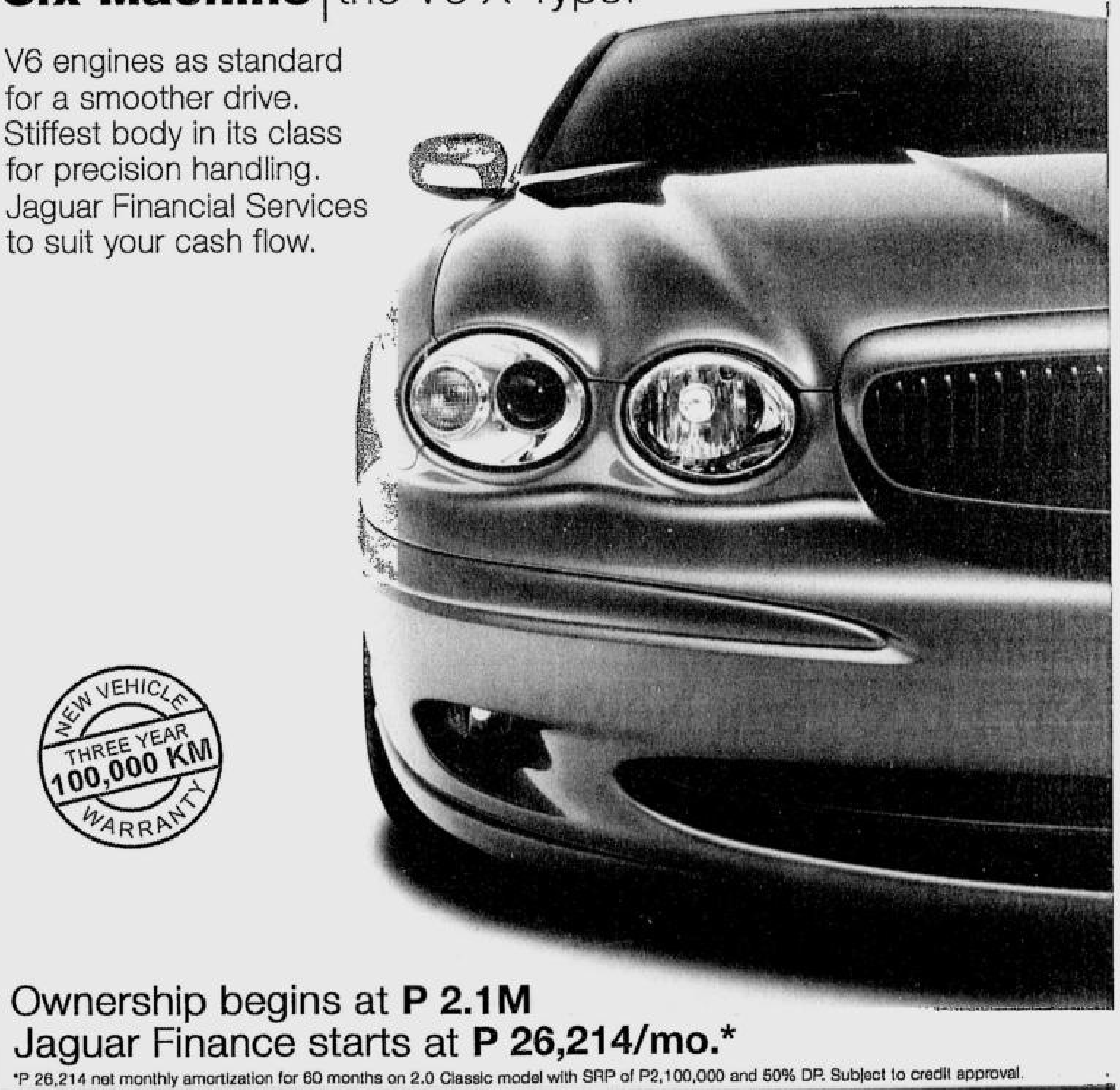
The farm sector accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product and employs two-fifths of the country's workforce. The sector was credited for the expected 4.3-percent growth in GDP last year and would again be counted on to push the economy to grow by as much as 5.2 percent in 2003.

Aside from selling to AMCs or special purpose vehicles, among the strategies that Landbank had been pursuing to bring down its NPL ratio were to collect loans aggressively, restructure some of the debts, accept a dacion or payment-in-kind arrangement, and foreclose the loan when no other option was left.

While selling to SPVs is an option, some banks are still uneasy with the 70- to 80-percent discount that the asset managers are offering to buy the bad loans and foreclosed assets that would leave banks to carry the burden of the losses.

Six Machine | the V6 X-Type.

V6 engines as standard
for a smoother drive.
Stiffest body in its class
for precision handling.
Jaguar Financial Services
to suit your cash flow.



Ownership begins at **P 2.1M**
Jaguar Finance starts at **P 26,214/mo.***

*P 26,214 net monthly amortization for 60 months on 2.0 Classic model with SRP of P2,100,000 and 50% DP. Subject to credit approval.

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BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Use smell to build a brand experience

By Karen V. De Asks
Contributor

WHEN marketing professionals develop a blueprint that describes the kind of brand experience they wish their target market to enjoy, much of the brand's promise is anchored on the sense of sight, taste, touch and hearing. Rarely is it linked to the most powerful sense of them all—the sense of smell.

Excluding fragrance and cosmetic manufacturers, using smell to sell the brand is largely an unexplored direction for many service, retail and manufacturing industries. Then, most advertising agencies fail to counsel their valued clients on the potential brand differentiation that can be achieved using the sense of smell. This, despite the following facts:

Smell is a chemical sense. Smell, along with taste, allows us to recognize chemicals without ingesting. This insight can help brand builders drive demand for their product or service. The wafting aroma of freshly brewed coffee or the minty scent of fresh tea can lure passerby a few meters away to impulse buying. The smell of mint and spice, rose and cedar induces customers to stay longer hours in a store encouraging unscheduled purchases.

A link exists between odor, memory, mood and emotion. According to olfaction research, the odor memory bank rests in the same area of the brain that is the repository of a person's emotions and sexual response, memory and creativity. Because of this, odors can be used to evoke feelings of relaxation, pleasure and happiness.

Odor memory lasts a longer time and is easy to smell. The Proust Effect named after its discoverer Marcel Proust, reveals that the sense of smell, compared to other senses, is able to prompt much faster recall of an experience along with the person's original emotions.

This tells us that the odor a person experiences in an undesirable situation, regardless if this were the result of the incident or not, is likely to be associated with the negative experience. Thus, if a person smells the same odor in the future, negative memories arise.

Marketers can do much brand building capitalizing on this discovery by creating a brand of smell uniquely identified with a positive experience. Singapore Airlines enhances its sensory experience with distinctly scented hot towels distributed before and after take-off. Asian Hospital and Medical Center's fresh whiff of light pine and lemon and scent reinforces a unique patient centered healing environment message. The scent of freshly cut grass and sea air at British Airways lounges worldwide signals a calm, peaceful trip ahead.

Olfaction research reveals that there are no less than 400,000 odors and scents in the world that can influence mood and behavior. Brand managers have a limitless opportunity ahead of them to develop a smell unique to their brand and use this as basis for their brand's differentiating positioning.

Here are some ways by which smell can be used to differentiate a brand:

Integrate odor in your brand's personality. Include in your brand character statement a description of the kind of smell you would like your brand to be associated with. This includes the images you would like your brand's smell to evoke. For example, the scent of sea air, spice, fresh cut grass in an SUV dealer showroom is a classic reminder of adventure that fits the lifestyle of a carefree, upwardly mobile professional target market.

Match the scent with your target market's profile and aspirations. An odor becomes memorable if recognizable and evokes pleasant memories among your target market. The smell of freshly brewed coffee can never fail to relax and calm the frayed nerves of impatient and restless executives waiting in line to complete a bank transaction.

Use odor to complete the sensory and brand experience. Visual design, subdued lighting, comfortable furniture and solicitous staff are common to salons that aim to pamper clients. But the right ventilation system that circulates apple, lavender or vanilla fragrance instead of the smell of chemical dyes sends a stronger message of indulgence.

The direction to capitalize on the sense of smell as a basis for brand positioning holds much promise. But along with others, it requires the same commitment in time, effort and resources to integrate it into a full sensory experience that leaves the customer delighted.

(The author is a professor of Marketing Management and Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School of Business. Email address at kdeasis@skyinet.net)

Food firms join up, create new logo

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MERGING the food businesses of the Ayala group of companies and food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. calls for more than just adding up the pesos and centavos and establishing a new company called San Miguel Pure Foods Co. Inc.

It also calls for bringing out a message to the consuming public that Pure Foods Corp. and San Miguel Corp. have combined their food businesses in a bid to become the country's premier food company.

San Miguel
Pure Foods

Strong product brands under the company include Tender Juicy Hotdogs, Magnolia Fresh Chicken, Star Margarine and Dari Crème.

In line with the move is the development of a corporate identity program, and a new logo.

The simple, new logo bears the names San Miguel and Pure Foods done in red and blue, with the word "pure" done in red for emphasis. The logo capitalizes on the fact that both San Miguel and Pure Foods are reputable brands in the food industry.

Addison Designs of Singapore, which designed the new logo, used large fonts to stress the company's strengths in the food business. The fonts are modern and italicized to reflect a more dynamic and forward-looking character.

The two-leaf graphic above the letter "I" in San Miguel was supposed to present the company's innovative character. The leaves are slightly apart, meanwhile, to represent the company's diverse businesses and opportunities for further growth.

The green color in the design, on the other hand, stands for the life-giving essence of food.

By keeping the elements in the logo at a minimum, SMPF wants to project the message that its products are "clean" and "pure."

San Miguel said that the process of coming up with the new logo, together with the rollout, took almost a year to complete. Development went through three phases:

1. Strategy development—coming up with a brand architecture that explains the relationship between the corporate brand and to the product brands—between the subsidiary and the parent company.

2. Core identity creation—actual logo creation and research. Three rounds of creative presentations and focused group discussions among different publics were completed before arriving at a logo that best represented the company's desired qualities.

3. Basic applications development—applying the logo in plant and building signages, packaging, merchandising and advertising, uniforms and corporate stationery.

The logo was formally launched late last year and was showcased through different activities such as institutional advertisement.

The "Tatak na may pambansang tiwala" ad introduced the logo as "a symbol of national trust," anchored on its strong product brands that also include the Monterey Meat Shops, Fiesta Ham, B-Meg feeds and Purefoods Flour.

The brand was also introduced internally through its newsletters and audio-visual presentations. SMPF also issued announcement cards for business partners and suppliers and some company facilities now sport the new logo.

"This new logo will remind us of our vision and our commitment to customers and employees. We will delight our customers and consumers with fresh, safe, delicious, convenient, value-for-money food products and services in all day parts, in and out of the home," San Miguel said.

Sara Lee goes New Age

ST. LOUIS—Creating a spa-like environment with soft music, calming colors and complimentary hand massages, a new lingerie chain is offering women sanctuary from the super-model imagery of Victoria's Secret and the free-for-all atmosphere at major department stores.

Sara Lee Corp., the company best known for cheesecakes and hot dogs, is taking its latest plunge into the retail world with a chain of stores called Inner Self. The New Age-inspired concept is designed to make the average woman feel more comfortable about her body while buying bras and underwear.

The venture comes as the Chicago company, which is also the largest US underwear maker, finds a key distribution network languishing.

"It's probably an answer to the fact that one of their most important channels, department stores, is having a lot of difficulty attracting traffic," said Deutsche Banc Securities analyst Eric Katzman.

Higher-margin department store business, which accounts for roughly 10 percent of Sara Lee's $6.5-billion in yearly apparel sales, has been under pressure. The stores have faced a tough economy that forced them to trim staff amid heightened competition from discounters like Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Meanwhile, Victoria's Secret has managed to keep up heady expansion, growing to more than 1,000 stores in 2002 from about 670 in 1995.

Sara Lee, which aims to have 10 Inner Self stores open through June, sees the chain filling a niche that will serve women ages 25 to 55, with an average dress size of 12. The stores provide an alternative to the often-unattainable, sexy ideal promoted by Victoria's Secret, and declining service at department stores.

So what makes Sara Lee think Inner Self will succeed in a down economy?

"There seems to be an open void for another specialty concept that complements Victoria's Secret," said Susan Nedved, the executive overseeing the chain's roll-out from Sara Lee's apparel division in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "There was a need for shopping alternatives that really cater to the aging population."

Reuters

How desirable is our Ad Congress Araw Award?

By Roger Pe
Contributor

THE CANNES Lion. The Clio. The D&AD . The One Show Pencil.

The names alone can intoxicate an ambitious copywriter or art director.

These symbols of excellence in advertising creativity worldwide are much coveted.

According to Adweek, creative people in Brazil who've won them are treated like rock stars and achieve celebrity status. No wonder people go the extra mile to win them.

The Araw. How desirable is our premier award show trophy? Some say it has become generic—made of shards of glass that pharmaceuticals, secretarial, hairdresser associations and many other companies also give away. Would you put it alongside the Lion, Clio, Pencil, Kancil, Spike or CCA?

To add a few more ounces of carats to our Araw Awards this year, the organizers are planning to invite foreign judges to sit in the jury for the much-awaited 18th Ad Congress creative competition.

Foreign judges

No less than the names of Neil French, this year's Clio head of jury David Droga, Marcello Serpa, Erh Ray, Craig Davis, Thai wonder boy Suthisak Sucharittanonta, regional hotshots Calvin Soh and Yasmin Ahmad have been dropped as possible members of the jury.

But some sectors of the industry are balking. Why foreign judges?

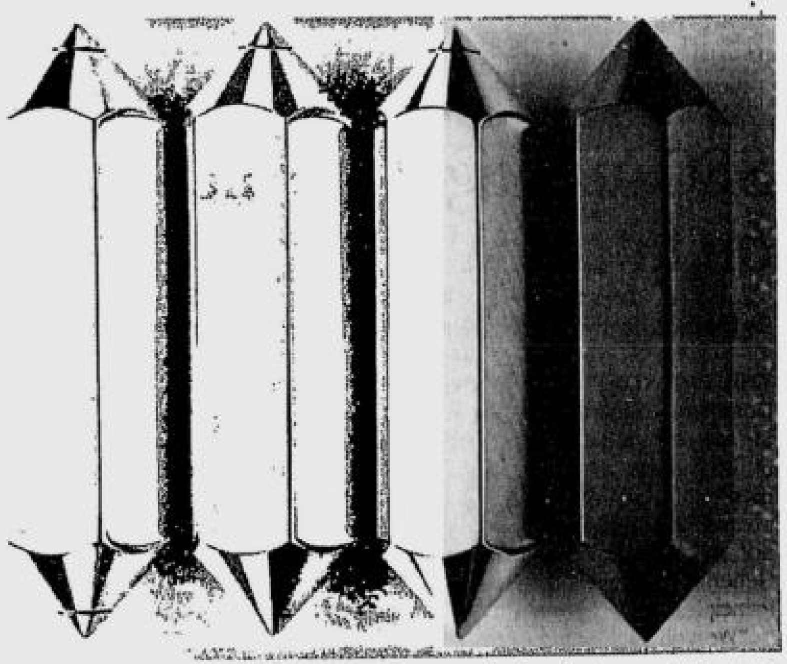
Our local ads they say may be at a disadvantage at our home turf. Foreign judges, they say would not be able to understand the local market, much more, the local flavor and nuances of local ads no matter how accurately they are translated into English.

Why should they take judgement on local ads as a foreigner who has not been in this country for more than a month? How can they judge an idea without understanding the constraints and challenges of doing a local campaign?

Local sentiments

We conducted a survey among top creative people in the industry, as well as in the region via e-mail. Strong nationalistic sentiments were voiced but there were those who said that opening our gates to foreign judges is long overdue.

Kim Shaw, editor of creative magazine Campaign Brief Asia and one of last Ad Congress' plenary speakers says "we have to ask what the award show is really there for: should it be a night of just getting together and patting everybody on the back or should it be about raising the creative standard of Philippine advertising? Bringing a mix of foreign judges will definitely help to achieve it."



ONE Show trophies. The toughest creative awards show in the world to win

"Winning a bronze at any national show is a worthy achievement. But it was obvious in the Cebu Ad Congress that people were not even happy winning silvers and sometimes, gold. They wanted platinum. With hundreds of finalists automatically winning bronzes, (certificates) framers must be rich in Manila."

A creative director from a multinational agency says, "I'd feel a lot better knowing that David Droga thinks my ad kicks ass, as compared to having a vote of approval from (not meant to discredit them) local judges. Recognition from people you look up to is amazing."

Steve Elrick, creative director of Bartle, Boggle and Hegarty Singapore and chair of last year's Singapore Creative Circle Awards (CCA) says, "the credibility, value and desirability of an award show is directly dependent upon who is judging it. Who would you prefer to applaud your masterpieces? Picasso or your second grade art teacher?"

The awesome Indian Kash Sree, who penned the 2002 Cannes Grand Prix winning "Tag" TV commercial for Nike, says of his Hong Kong Kam Fan judging experience: "All the judges were very sensitive as to whether we had missed something and would, on several occasions ask the local judges.

There was one occasion when we had missed a word play in Cantonese where a smaller car was painted on the side of a bus for a slimming product. It wasn't until it was explained to us that fat women in Chinese are often called "big buses" that we understood how smart the execution was.

I think it was awarded gold once we knew. But we did ask. No one was looking down on any execution just because it didn't have immediate meaning outside of that market."

A creative director who requested anonymity says, "In Asia, most local award shows try to ape Cannes. There is and always will be one Cannes, just like there is one Calvin Klein. Such wannabe attitude will reinforce the prevalent beliefs among our young creatives that winning in an international show is better than winning in a local competition.

They celebrate raw creativity, rather than true branding and communication work.

There is also no link between foreign judges and better ads. By inviting them, it might give signal that we lack confidence in ourselves.

The end result is that your ads become more Anglo, losing the local flavor and insight that make them special. And everyone else's ads will start to look the same at a local or international show, targeting the tastes of foreign judges because they want to win."

Shaw, however, says that "foreign judges will always go for the idea and idea alone, not the local flavor or agency. What's an ad with a local flavor but without an idea?

Outside judges as he prefers to call foreign judges, will judge and work harder than anyone else.

The awards committee should give fewer awards so that the Araw will be harder to win and this will lead to improved standards."

Should we fear the foreign judges—the Fishlocks, Warsops, the Wees, the Sohs? Or the bloody-minded, local judges? Is a merry-mix of local and foreign judges the better idea? Which ad agencies will achieve celebrity status this year? Will the presentation once again look like a noontime variety TV show and extend up to 3 in the morning? Or will it be like the Oscars, attended by our industry peers saluting only the best of the best? Will find out this November.

AEV to bid for Transco assets

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. said it was bidding for some of the P13 billion worth of sub-transmission assets to be privatized by National Transmission Corp., the entity that absorbed the transmission lines of National Power Corp. (Napocor).

During the launch of WG&A Shipping's SuperFerry 15, AEV executive vice president and chief operating officer Erramon Aboitiz yesterday told reporters that his company would bid for Napocor assets that would complement its existing power distribution businesses.

"When they sell that, we will be interested in buying the sub-transmission assets that are within our franchise areas in San Fernando, Davao and Cotabato," Aboitiz said.

AEV, which has been involved in the power industry since the 1930s, is engaged in both electricity generation and distribution through wholly owned subsidiary Aboitiz Power Corp., its biggest revenue driver.

Aboitiz Power's four power distribution companies and its respective interests are: Davao Light and Power Co. Inc. (99.91 percent); Cotabato Light and Power Co. Inc. (99.91 percent); Visayan Electric Co. (54.35 percent), and San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. (43.4 percent).

Aboitiz said the Transco management would still have to draw up a framework on how to sell the sub-transmission assets.

"Actually, the law gives priority to the local distribution companies or cooperatives where the sub-transmission assets are," he said.

Transco earlier said there were at least five groups that had expressed serious interest to acquire the sub-transmission assets.

Under Republic Act No. 9136 or Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), Transco must privatize its sub-transmission assets by June 2003.

Other distribution utilities and electric cooperatives such as the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), Tarlac Electric Cooperative and San Fernando, Pampanga Electric Co. are also among those which are keen on acquiring the sub-transmission assets of Transco.

For its part, Meralco is also interested in Transco's sub-transmission assets located in Bulacan and Cavite.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, January 16, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	37	37	36.5	37	840,900
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	40,100
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	160,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	145,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	13,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	660,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1005	1005	1000	1005	760
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	22,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.42	0.42	2,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	525	500	515	8,800
Ipeople Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	47,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,350,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	330	337.5	330	332.5	184,390
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	17,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.9	10	9.4	9.4	895,000
Manila Electric Co. B	13.5	14	12.75	13	4,459,700
Petron Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.56	1.56	1,804,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	1,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.64	1.66	1,793,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.42	2.42	311,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	250,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.12	2.14	34,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	182,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	35.5	36	35.5	36	48,900
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	45,300
San Miguel Corp. B	64.5	64.5	64	64.5	200,700
Universal Robina Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	69,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,000
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.55	4.4	4.4	2,355,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	485,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	3,000,000
APC Group Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.04	0.04	600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.12	0.135	0.12	0.135	900,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	12,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	1,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	2,150,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	90,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	10.5	10.5	9.9	10	1,178,200
Ionics Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	310,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	280,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.61	0.61	1,610,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.175	0.175	2,260,000
Music Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	80,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	1,000,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	9,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	80,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	860,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	80,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14	2,301,100
Jollibee Warrants	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	3,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	2,053,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.13	0.145	0.13	0.14	6,950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	0.98	0.98	6,657,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.92	120,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	5,700,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.14	570,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	62,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	12,567,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	124,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	16,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	50,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	1,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0022	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000

FINANCIAL TURNAROUND

Nenaco sees P100M in profit

NEGROS Navigation Co., the shipping subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., expects to report a net profit of P100 million in 2002, reflecting a turnaround from the P1.36 billion in losses incurred a year ago.

This will mark the first full year of Nenaco's profitability, which has been operating in the red for more than five years.

MPC vice president David Nugent, who gave the full-year estimate, said the shipping firm was back on a sustainable profitability.

"This was achieved through a very drastic cost reduction and elimination of petty graft and corruption at the Manila North Harbor, implementation of efficient controls and reporting system," Nugent said in an interview.

Although no estimates for revenue and expenditure levels were given, Nugent said earnings were boosted by the doubling of the cargo business.

"We'll continue to build on these gains in the succeeding years," he said.

In a separate statement, Nenaco also refuted rumors that it was in arrears to various suppliers in excess of P160 million.

"Nenaco currently has mutually satisfactory payment arrangements with its arrastre service provider, North Star Arrastre, as well as the rest of its suppliers and business partners in Manila and ports around the country," it said.

"Nenaco assures the public that throughout 2003, it intends to build on its strengths as the Philippines' second largest passenger and cargo shipper, with the support of its creditors, business partners, suppliers and millions of passenger customers," it added.

The Nenaco management also pledged to sustain ongoing turnaround efforts and to increase its market share in each of the 15 ports it serves across the country. *Doris C. Dumlao*

ATI allots P400M for expansion

PORT operator Asian Terminals Inc. plans to spend P300 million to P400 million this year to continue the expansion and modernization of its international ports.

ATI executive chair and president Richard Barclay yesterday told reporters during the inauguration of the company's P770-million Eva Macapagal Super Terminal and port facility that the company would further beef up its domestic port operations.

"We will continue our program of modernizing the South Harbor and this new terminal is part of our South Harbor modernization program," Barclay said.

Named after the late first lady and mother of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the 2,878-square-meter Super Terminal intends to accommodate larger ships and thus create new opportunities for more efficient shipping operations and lower freight costs.

The capital expenditures planned for this year, he said, represented the unused portion of the P1.4 billion that ATI programmed last year. *Doris C. Dumlao*

SEC may tighten rule on financial reporting

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it was considering rejecting financial statements of listed companies bearing "qualified" auditor's opinion, which means the financial statements do not strictly follow the country's Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

"We will give it back to them (listed firms) and ask them to explain why (they are not following GAAP)," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said in a recent briefing.

A review of some 2001 audited annual financial statements filed by publicly listed companies with the SEC showed that a significant number of the submissions had "qualified" auditor's opinion. In a briefing with reporters yesterday, newly appointed SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat said the SEC was looking at accepting only unqualified reports because it wanted to provide a level-playing field in the kind of financial information made available to investors.

Institutional investors have the resources to scrutinize the listed companies' financial statements but many individual investors do not have the skill or training and the resources to check the numbers stated in the annual reports.

Financial statements that strictly follow GAAP may have radically different figures than those that do not.

DISCLOSURES

ARANETA Properties Inc. announced the resignation of Gilbert S. Millado Jr. as assistant corporate secretary and corporate information officer of the company effective Jan. 15.

* * *

THE LISTING of 145,666 commons shares of **SPI Technologies Inc.** is set on Jan. 17.

* * *

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. disclosed that for the period Jan. 1-15, 2003, 97,356 shares have been exercised and dully paid for under the company's stock option plan.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. repurchased 70,000 shares as treasury stocks at the rate of P0.36 on Jan. 15. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Jan. 16, 2003

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.947777	1.000000	53.412000
Japan	Yen	0.008025	0.008467	0.452200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.521183	1.605000	85.726300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.121529	0.128225	6.848800
Switzerland	Franc	0.684464	0.722178	38.573000
Canada	Dollar	0.617123	0.651126	34.777900
Singapore	Dollar	0.546805	0.576934	30.815200
Australia	Dollar	0.554645	0.585206	31.257000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.514132	2.652661	141.683900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.252734	0.266660	14.242800
Brunei	Dollar'	0.545233	0.575275	30.726600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000113	0.006000
Thailand	Baht	0.022227	0.023452	1.252600
UAE	Dirham	0.258053	0.272272	14.542600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.055100	56.355000
Argentina	Peso	0.294341	0.310559	16.587600
Brazil	Real	0.287205	0.303030	16.185400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134589	0.142005	7.584800
India	Rupee	0.019799	0.020890	1.115800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.249448	0.263193	14.057700
Mexico	New Peso	0.090264	0.095238	5.086900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509805	0.537895	28.730000
Norway	Kroner	0.137103	0.144657	7.726400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016327	0.017227	0.920100
South Africa	Rand	0.108503	0.114482	6.114700
Korea	Won	0.000809	0.000854	0.045600
Sweden	Kroner	0.109147	0.115161	6.151000
Syria	Pound	0.018403	0.019417	1.037100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.027600	0.029121	1.555400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000561	0.000592	0.031600

UNIONBANK

SSS-Makati Bldg., Ayala Ave., cor. Herrera St., Makati City

A full-service universal bank with 112 branches
A partnership among the Aboitiz Group, Insular Life Assurance Co. and Social Security System

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of December 17, 2002

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	929,091,724
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,120,606,721
Due from Other Banks		410,641,684
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,619,851,307
Trading Account Securities (Net)		665,889,127
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		29,318,580,507
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,645,383,423
Equity Investments (Net)		1,074,753,818
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,512,579,236
Other Assets (Net)		10,012,501,040
Property Owned/Acquired		5,753,943,689
Others		4,258,557,351
TOTAL ASSETS	P	73,309,878,587

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	10,337,299,572
Savings Deposits		19,428,296,293
Time Deposits		11,925,031,653
Special/Other Deposits		5,799,916
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,414,870
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,485,425,876
Bills Payable:		10,712,342,765
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		9,279,210,666
Others		1,414,086,431
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		812,528,208
Other Liabilities		5,271,511,511
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	59,998,650,664

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,169,945,943
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,311,227,923
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	73,309,878,587

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	88,760,170
Bills for Collection		52,671,197
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		13,085,727,590
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,949,032,596
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,676,155,768
Invested in:		
Government Securities		1,936,111,893
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		149,072,917
Loans & Discounts		9,899,151
Other Assets		3,581,071,807
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,715,380,585
Common Trust Funds		1,101,692,044
Investment/Fund Management		859,083,139
Other Contingent Accounts		77,833,494
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	21,930,180,815

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	494,988,070
b) Banks		139,402,244
c) Trust Department		2,906,501,152
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
a) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 6% (Small Enterprises)		313%
b) Prescribed Ratio of Compliance for 2% (Medium Enterprises)		647%
3. Amount of Non-Performing Loans		3,344,998,408
4. Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		11.38%
5. Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets		7,419,929,943
6. General Provision for Loan Losses		221,219,612
7. Specific Provision for Loan Losses		1,904,290,026
8. Return on Equity (ROE)		11.50%
9. Amount of DOSRI Loans/Advances		1,202,894,214
10. Ratio of DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		4.09%
11. Amount of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances		-
12. Ratio of Past Due DOSRI Loans/Advances to Total Loan Portfolio		-

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd) YSMAEL V. BAYSA
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 10th day of January 2003, affiants exhibiting to me their Community Tax No. 11937965 issued at Makati City on February 28, 2002 and Community Tax No. 16925614 issued at Quezon City on February 11, 2002, respectively.

MIGUEL G. PADERNAL
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
PTR NO. 6749998
JAN. 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 208
Page No. 43
Book No. XLI
Series of 2003.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of December 17, 2002

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Items	P	932,824,543
Due from Bangko Sentral		1,120,606,721
Due from Other Banks		410,641,684
Interbank Loans Receivable		13,619,851,307
Trading Account Securities (Net)		683,323,211
Investments in Bonds & Other Debt Instruments (Net)		29,318,580,507
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		13,312,661,211
Equity Investments (Net)		857,188,230
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,519,186,083
Other Assets (Net)		10,523,971,374
Property Owned/Acquired		5,753,943,689
Others		4,770,027,685
TOTAL ASSETS	P	73,298,834,871

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits	P	10,288,511,012
Savings Deposits		19,427,699,380
Time Deposits		11,925,031,653
Special/Other Deposits		5,799,916
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,414,870
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		1,485,425,876
Bills Payable:		10,712,842,765
BSP - Rediscounts/Special Programs		19,045,668
Interbank Borrowings		9,279,210,666
Others		1,414,586,431
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits		813,345,629
Other Liabilities		5,306,869,484
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	59,985,940,585
Minority Interest in Allied Undertakings/Subsidiaries/Affiliates		1,666,363

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock	P	7,087,057,923
Surplus		6,169,945,943
Surplus Reserves		54,224,057
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	13,311,227,923
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	P	73,298,834,871

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit	P	88,760,170
Bills for Collection		52,671,197
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		13,085,727,590
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		2,949,032,596
Assets Held under Trust & Investment Management Agreements		5,676,155,768
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Government Securities		1,936,111,893
Other Securities, Debt Instruments And Shares of Stock		149,072,917
Loans & Discounts		9,899,151
Other Assets		3,581,071,807
Accountabilities:		
Trust & Other Fiduciary		3,715,380,585
Common Trust Funds		1,101,692,044
Investment/Fund Management		859,083,139
Other Contingent Accounts		77,833,494
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	P	21,930,180,815

Other Information

1. Deposits of:		
a) Government	P	494,988,070
b) Banks		139,402,244
c) Trust Department		2,906,501,152
2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries:		
a) UnionBank Currency Brokers Corporation		
b) UBP Capital Corporation		
c) UBP Securities, Inc.		

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
MAKATI CITY) S.S.

We, Ysmael V. Baysa and Victor B. Valdepeñas of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

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(Sgd) VICTOR B. VALDEPEÑAS
President

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NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31, 2003
PTR NO. 6749998
JAN. 17, 2002
MAKATI CITY

Doc. No. 209
Page No. 43
Book No. XLI
Series of 2003.

www.unionbankph.com

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Joint Induction of Y2003 National, Metro Manila Region and Southern Luzon Region Chapter Officers, Sectoral Council Members and Committee Chairs

January 17, 2003 Skytop Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Makati City

Theme: PICPA: Partner for Progress

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila

I send my warmest greetings to the **Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA)** on your 2003 Induction Ceremonies.

As the primary mover in implementing sound fiscal management, you help both the government and the private sector institute policies that contribute to the attainment of our vision to establish a strong Republic.

May you continue to uphold transparency, accountability and prudence in government and corporate spending. Let us work hand in hand to promote the growth of SME's to keep up with the world's leading economies; while maintaining a social bias for the poor the disadvantaged.

Mabuhay!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION
Manila

It is indeed a pleasure to greet the 2003 incoming set of officers of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA). On behalf of the Professional Regulation Commission, I convey my sincerest congratulations to the 2003 National Executive Officers and Directors, Sectoral Council, Committee Chairpersons, Metro Manila Regional Councils and Southern Luzon Region on the occasion of their Induction Ceremonies.

The theme, "PICPA: Partner for Progress," speaks well of how the Institute has come to be relied upon as a dependable and reliable partner in the country's quest for progress and development. CPAs clearly has a definite role in society in ensuring a progressive and financially stable economy. It is, therefore, fitting that we salute the new set of officers who will steer PICPA to greater success and service.

Indeed, your election as officers is not only a source of pride on your part but also a commendable willingness to be of service to your fellow PICPANs and to the Filipino people in general.

May I, therefore, enjoin you, the new PICPA officers to continue to uphold with greater zeal and fervor the objectives and principles of the Institute. I ask you to lead your members towards global competition and ensure that they adhere to the ethical requirements in the practice of the profession.

For its part, the Commission will continue to nurture Filipino Certified Public Accountants in partnership with the PICPA, to professional excellence through a customer-focused, technology-propelled, vibrant, and dynamic professional regulation.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

ANTONIETA FORTUNA-IBE
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission

BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY
Manila

On behalf of the Board of Accountancy, allow me to congratulate the National Executive Officers and Directors, Sectoral Council Members, Committee Chairpersons, Metro Manila Regional Council and Southern Luzon Regional Council of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants on your induction as officers of the institute for the year 2003.

As accounting and financial executives, you play a very vital role in this very demanding business setting. It is obligatory therefore that you keep cognizant and well informed so that you are able to respond quickly to the imperatives that may come about. As leaders of your respective sectors, you have the power, but you also have the responsibility to set an example to the members, rooted on the noble mission with which the organization is formed. Each one of you is tasked with proving yourself competent enough to be a part of such an elite group of officials commissioned to serve our organization and the multi-farious world of business and economics alike. May you forge through the future in unity and become the vehicles of development and success.

My best wishes to all of you!

EUGENE T. MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy

PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
Mandaluyong City

This year, the Institute and Filipino CPAs face another great challenge which must be confronted squarely and in one voice to prove to the clientele, civil society, and government that the Filipino CPAs continually uphold their integrity, honesty and true professionalism.

Indeed, we need to show to the world that the CPA stands out as the basic conduit to good governance, corporate accountability and transparency both in private and government sectors. If we live up to our responsibility guided by uncompromising ethical principles, there is no doubt that we can do more for the profession in particular and the country's development in general.

I therefore ask CPAs in all sectors, whether past or present National, Regional and Chapter Officers to join the bandwagon to embrace the challenge to make the Accounting Profession worthy of its name. Come, join us as we journey through another year of PICPA activities with your invaluable support. Only through your cooperation and involvement will PICPA undertakings become more meaningful.

Mabuhay: PICPA and PICPANs!!!

CRISANTO F. CASTRO, JR.
2003 National President

2003 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CRISANTO F. CASTRO, JR.
National President

PIO D. BACONGA
Executive Vice President

EVELY L. CHUN PENG
Vice President for Operations

ESTER F. LEDESMA
Vice President for Professional Development & Research

GERARD B. SANVICTORES
Vice President for External Affairs

JESSIE D. CABALUNA
Secretary

RUBY R. SEBALLE
Treasurer

ANTONIO G. VENERACION
Asst. Secretary

2003 REGIONAL DIRECTORS

GERARD B . SANVICTORES
Metro Manila

EVELY L. CHUN PENG
Metro Manila

ARCELY A. RODRIGUEZ
Metro Manila

RODOLFO C CAROLINO
Northen Luzon

EDNA P. YUMOL
Northern Luzon

JOSE M. PAGUNAWAN, JR.
Central Luzon

JULIET T. MERCADO
Central Luzon

CRISANTO F. CASTRO, JR.
Southern Luzon

EMMIE M. MENDOZA
Southern Luzon

MANUEL M. PASCUAL
Eastern Visayas

ASTERIO M. BASCO
Eastern Visayas

AMARYLIS JOSEPHINE C. CASTRO
Western Visayas

PERCIVAL C. SALADO
Western Visayas

EDGAR D. ESPARAGUERA, JR.
Northern Mindanao

PIO D. BACONGA
Northern Mindanao

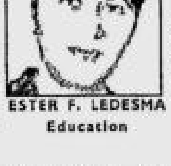
ANTONIO G. VENERACION
Southern Mindanao

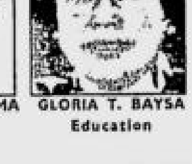
PACIENCIO M. ROSALEM, JR.
Southern Mindanao

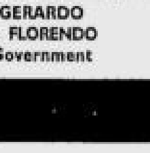
2003 SECTORAL DIRECTORS

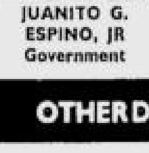
CECILIA R. PATRICIO
Commerce & Industry

IRENE DEE DY
Commerce & Industry

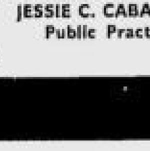

ESTER F. LEDESMA
Education


GLORIA T. BAYSA
Education


GERARDO R. FLORENDO
Government


JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR
Government

RUBY R. SEBALLE
Public Practice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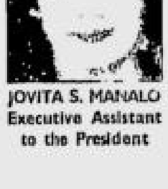
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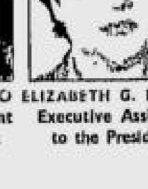
ELIZABETH G. PAGUIO
Executive Assistant to the President

All about PICPA

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants was founded in November 1929 by a group of illustrious pioneers in the accounting profession: Enrique Caguiat, Santiago dela Cruz, Francisco Dalupan, Jaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tulio, Clemente Uson and Jesus Zulueta.

The group set forth the following objectives:

- To promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards among accountants;
- To advance the science of accounting;
- To develop and improve accountancy education;
- To encourage cordial relations among accountants; and
- To protect the Certificate of Certified Public Accountant granted by the Republic of the Philippines.

W.W. Larkin, holder of CPA Certificate No. 1, was its first president.

After having complied with the requirements for accreditation under Presidential Decree No. 223, PICPA was awarded Certificate of Accreditation No. 6 on October 2, 1973, by then Chairman Eric Nubla of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

This distinction, which recognized the Institute as the bonfide professional regulation of CPAs, like-wise gave PICPA the responsibility of setting into motion a scheme for the integration of all CPAs in the country. The integration was accomplished on January 6, 1989.

PICPA is a registered non-stock corporation with regions and chapters all over the country. Regions and Chapters do not have personally separate and distinct from each other or from the national office.

The PICPA organization consists of the National Office (supported by a secretariat), the regions, the chapters and the general membership.

The National Office is under the management of officers elected by the members of the Board themselves. Annually, the membership votes for the 25 members of the Board, 17 from the eight regions (namely, Metro Manila, Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao and Southern Mindanao) and 8 from the four sectors (namely, Education, Commerce and Industry, Government and Public Practice).

Induction Program

Invocation	Jessie D. Cabaluna, Secretary
National Anthem	Flordeliza S. Yboa, President, Western Metro Manila Chapter
Opening Remarks	Evely L. Chun Peng Vice President for Operations
Introduction of Special Guests	Antonio G. Veneracion Assistant Secretary
Introduction of Inducting Officers	Ester F. Ledesma, Vice President for Prof. Dev't. & Research
DINNER	
Southern Luzon Region Induction Rites	
Induction of Southern Luzon Regional Council and PICPA Lipa City Chapter Officers and Directors	Honorable Rolando G. Andaya Congressman, 1st District, Camarines Sur
Metro Manila Region Induction Rites	
Induction of Metro Manila Regional Council MM Chapter Officers and MM Chapter Committee Chairs	Honorable Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe Chair, Professional Regulation Commission
Valedictory Address	Rosalinda D. Evangelista 2002 Chair, Metro Manila Region
Turn-Over of Authority Inaugural Speech	Gerard B. Sanvictores 2003 Chair, Metro Manila Region
Inspirational Message	Honorable Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe
PICPA National Induction Rites	
Induction of PICPA Presidential Advisers Members, Sectoral Councils, Chairs, Standing Committees and Special Committees	Honorable Joey Salceda Congressman, 3rd District, Albay
Induction of Regional & Sectoral Directors and National Executive Officers	Honorable Emilia T. Boncodin Secretary, Department of Budget and Management
Inaugural Speech	Crisanto F. Castro, Jr. 2003 PICPA National President
Introduction of Guest Speaker	Ruby R. Seballe, Treasurer
Message of Guest Speaker	Honorable Emilia P. Boncodin Secretary, Department of Budget and Management
Closing Remarks	Pio D. Baconga, 2003 Executive Vice President
Master of Ceremonies	Corazon S. Hernandez, Past PICPA Board of Directors Eduardo M. Trinidad, Past Sectotal Council Member for Education

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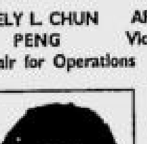
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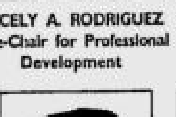
Vice-Chair for Operations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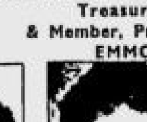
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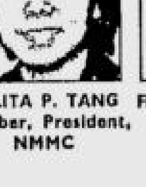
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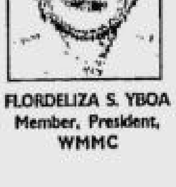
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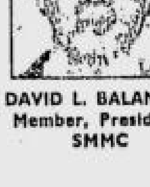
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Member, President, SMMC

ROSALINDA D. EVANGELISTA
Ex-Officio

The Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants

MISSION STATEMENT

PICPA IS THE GLOBALLY-RECOGNIZED AND INTEGRATED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF FILIPINO CPAs IN ALL SECTORS.

ITS MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION, SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF ITS MEMBERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

THESE CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ABREAST WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY, STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, PROMOTION OF HIGH STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY OF AND PARTICIPATION IN RELEVANT NATIONAL ISSUES.

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""TO BE STRONG, DYNAMIC, AND UNIFIED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF HIGHLY-RESPECTED, WORLD-CLASS ANDSOCIALLY-COMMITTED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS WORTHY OF ESTEEM OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE"

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3. Emerita H. Escueta
4. Leonardo J. Matignas, Jr.
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Ethics	Jose S. Tayag, Jr.
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Professional Development and Research	David L. Balangue
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Students Participation	Raul C. Addatu
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ADB-337 Project	Ruby R. Seballe

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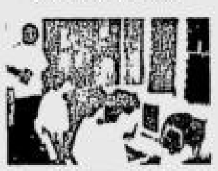

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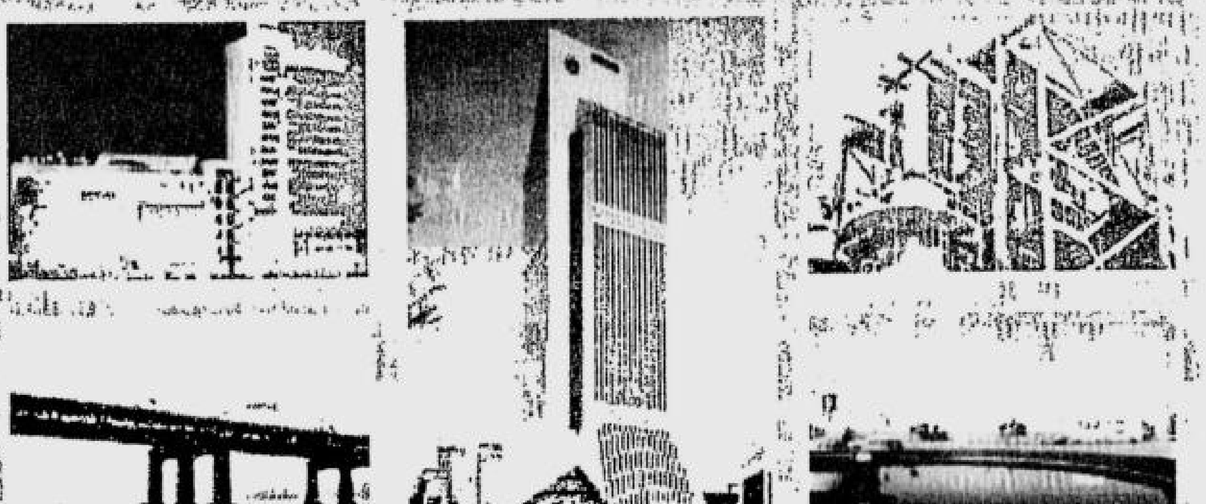

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Innovate or fall behind, World Bank tells Asia

WORLD Bank president James Wolfensohn. AFP

SINGAPORE—East Asia's economies run the risk of being left behind unless they break with the past and focus on innovation as the major source of growth, the World Bank said Thursday.

In a blunt warning to a region that has enjoyed three decades of spectacular growth, the bank said Asia could no longer depend on its traditional economic model—based on massive inputs of labor and capital—to deliver the goods.

"It is imperative that East Asia prepare to move up the value chain, relying more on productivity-enhancing innovations based on science and technology for its dominant source of growth," said the report, fruit of a three-year study.

The transformation of Asia's major exports into low value-added commodities, along with emerging competition from lower cost producers and global contract manufacturers, pointed to the dwindling effectiveness of Asia's development model, the Washington-based lender said.

"East Asia must adapt to these changes—or run the risk of being left behind," Shahid Yusuf, an economic adviser to the World Bank and the report's main author, said in a statement.

The report's thrust is that governments need to build on the openness of their economies, rising to the new challenges of globalization.

This means undertaking extensive domestic reforms in areas such as banking, deregulation, liberalizing the services sector and integrating capital markets, the World Bank said.

Asia's low productivity in services, in particular, could soon put a brake on growth, the report said.

"East Asia is ready for a revolution in retailing, wholesaling and logistics, to name just a few of the traditional service activities that employ large numbers of people," it said.

With the technological revolution continuing apace and the organization of production being transformed, delay in grasping the nettle of change is almost certain to be costly.

"Although it is often tempting to take the path of least political resistance and to sidestep institutional or policy issues, these issues will only become more serious if they are put on hold," said the report, "Innovative East Asia: The Future of Growth."

The report cited Japan as a prime example of the cost of delay. Although the country invests heavily in research, the World Bank said its capacity to innovate is not being translated into growth because of institutional weaknesses.

The challenge facing Asian policy makers is all the more acute given China's success in attracting the lion's share of foreign direct investment as multinational companies tap into the country's low labor costs and booming domestic market.

With Japanese and other companies increasingly investing in higher-technology research and development facilities, the World Bank raised the prospect China could successfully transform itself from "factory of the world" to "design laboratory of the world." If that were to happen, the competitive heat that members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are already feeling would obviously intensify.

"For the Asean nations, this could drastically heighten the urgency of developing new and differentiated products and services," the report said. *Reuters*

Online games trounce e-commerce

SINGAPORE—Online gaming is now more popular than electronic commerce among Internet users in the Asia-Pacific, driving the growth of broadband services, an industry report said Thursday.

Technology research house International Data Corp. (IDC) said gamers in China and Malaysia outnumber buyers by a ratio of two to one and in South Korea, half of all respondents described themselves as online gamers.

"Online gaming has been established as a credible, albeit still developing market," said Chin Jun Fwu, analyst for software research.

"The past year has seen this industry transitioning from an initial phase of development into a more mature market," Chin said.

"It is a remarkable milestone to have the number of online gamers surpassing online buyers in several countries within one year."

The survey covering 4,600 Internet users in six Asian countries showed 43 percent in China were gamers in cyberspace versus 16 percent who were buyers, and in Singapore, 39 percent were gamers against 25 percent who make purchases through the Internet.

In Hong Kong, 35 percent of those polled played online games. *AFP*

Migrant Chinese workers now 94M

BEIJING—The number of rural dwellers in China seeking their fortunes as migrant workers in the big cities last year grew to more than 94 million.

The number increased by 4.7 million last year from the year before, the China News Service reported.

The situation in China would equate to the entire population of Mexico suddenly hitting the road in search for jobs elsewhere.

China's migrant labor force has proved indispensable to bringing about the country's speedy economic growth.

Migrants are likely to take jobs in big cities disdained by local residents for being too dirty or dangerous, such as jobs on construction sites.

The huge internal migration in China also entails immense human costs. *AFP*

THE SKYLINE of Osaka is seen in this Feb. 8, 2001 file photo. The Japanese cities of Tokyo and Osaka have retained their respective first and second-place rankings as the most expensive in the world, a new survey has found. REUTERS

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Asia-Pacific outlook hangs on global tensions

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A MAN eats his lunch among boxes of electrical goods in Singapore. Singapore's key non-oil domestic exports are expected to have expanded 8.3 to 18.7 percent on the year in December 2002 to bring full year growth of 2.2 to 3.8 percent, economists said. AFP

SINGAPORE—War in Iraq and nuclear tensions in North Korea could derail what should otherwise be a year of solid but unspectacular growth throughout Asia-Pacific, the latest Reuters quarterly poll of over 100 economists shows.

The pace of growth is expected to accelerate in 2003 in six countries based on 2003-2004 fiscal year forecasts, while it will hold steady in two and slow—but still be positive—in the remaining five countries.

Among the countries expected to slow, South Korea, China and Thailand are all still expected to post respectable growth.

Inflation is not expected to present many problems in 2003, although some of the stronger economies, such as South Korea and Australia, are expected to increase official interest rates.

Hanging over the Asia-Pacific, as indeed the rest of the world, are fears of how the crises in Iraq and North Korea will play out and how they will affect global trade.

Middle East tensions have already driven oil prices higher, and an outbreak of war could further increase prices and possibly disrupt supplies.

War could also hamper business investment and global trade, key economic engines for much of Asia.

But some think the geopolitical risks are overstated.

"We are assuming that the world is not going to suffer a severe disruption from a geopolitical shock ... that the global economy can dodge the bullet," said David Cohen, director of macro forecasting at MMS International in Singapore.

After a tough 2002, things are not expected to improve for the Philippines, with economists forecasting slower growth and rising inflation.

At a time when the country's fiscal deficit is ballooning, economists said it would increase the risks of a sovereign ratings downgrade. adding to the pressure on President Macapagal-Arroyo to make good on her vow to fix the economy before the 2004 elections. *Reuters*

More farms sprout biotech plants

SAN FRANCISCO—A record number of genetically modified crops were planted around the world last year, proving resistant not just to bugs and weeds but also to political and financial pressures.

The bumper harvest comes amid a potential trade war between the United States and the European Union over the crops.

A report issued Wednesday by a group that promotes use of the technology in poor countries found that an estimated 6 million farmers in 16 countries planted genetically modified crops on 145 million acres last year, an increase of 15 million acres and three countries from the previous year.

In 1996, the first year genetically modified crops were commercially available, about 4.3 million acres were under biotechnology cultivation.

The United States accounted for 66 percent of the total biotechnology acreage last year.

"Biotechnology continues to be the most rapidly adopted technology in agricultural history due to the social and economic benefits the crops offer farmers and society," said Clive James, founder of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications. *AP*

Too early to say if US has emerged from recession, panel concludes

WASHINGTON—It is too early to say whether the United States has emerged from a recession that began in March 2001, a panel charged with dating US recessions said in its January report.

"According to the most recent data, the US economy continues to experience growth in output but declines in employment," said the National Bureau of Economic Research panel.

"Recent data confirm our earlier conclusion that additional time is needed to be confident about the interpretation of the movements of the economy last year and this year," it said.

The US economy slipped into a recession in March 2001, marking the end of a record decade-long expansion, said the NBER's six-member business cycle dating committee.

It is not yet clear whether a further economic contraction would be deemed part of the same recession, it said in a report released on its Internet site late Tuesday.

Many economists define a recession as two consecutive quarters of shrinking gross domestic product.

By that measure, the US economy plunged into a recession the first half of 2001 and emerged in the last quarter of 2001, posting growth in each quarter since then.

Preliminary figures to be released Jan. 30 are expected to show further growth in the fourth quarter of 2002.

But the NBER panel has a broader measure: it says a recession is a significant decline in activity spread across the economy that lasts more than a few months.

It dates a recession as being the time between a peak in economic activity and a trough.

"The trough date will mark the end of the recession," the NBER report said.

But the NBER said it usually waits many months to judge when the economy has hit a trough because of possible revisions to the numbers and the risk that a contraction might resume. *AFP*

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Kagawaran ng Katarungan
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG MGA LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
Lungsod ng Quezon

September 10, 2002

LRA CIRCULAR NO. 11-2002

SUBJECT : INCREASE IN THE RATES OF FEES AND CHARGES PAYABLE TO THE CLERK OF COURT, THE SHERIFF, THE REGISTER OF DEEDS AND THE LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY AND FEES FOR CHATTEL MORTGAGES, ETC., AUTHORIZED UNDER P.D. 1529 - THE PROPERTY REGISTRATION DECREE PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 197 DATED JANUARY 13, 2000 AND DOF-DBM JOINT CIRCULAR NO. 2000-2 DATED APRIL 4, 2000. THE REVISED RATES SHALL TAKE EFFECT FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER ITS LAST PUBLICATION IN TWO (2) NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

SCHEDULE OF FEES: **SPECIAL FUND**

SEC. 111. Fees Payable - The fees payable to the Clerk of Court, the Sheriff, the Register of Deeds and the Land Registration Authority shall be as follows:

A. Fees payable to the Clerk of Court - The fees payable to the Clerks of Court or his deputies shall be as follows:

1. For filing an application for the registration of land. Fees shall be based on the assessed value of the property for the current year in accordance with the following schedule:
   a. When the value of the property does not exceed two thousand pesos:
      - For the first five hundred pesos, or fractional part thereof 45.00
      - For each additional five hundred pesos, or fractional part thereof 15.00
   b. When the value of the property is more than two thousand pesos but does not exceed ten thousand pesos:
      - For the first three thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 105.00
      - For each additional one thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 15.00
   c. When the value of the property is more than ten thousand pesos but does not exceed one hundred thousand pesos:
      - For the first twenty thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 240.00
      - For each additional ten thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 30.00
   d. When the value of the property is more than one hundred thousand pesos but does not exceed five hundred thousand pesos:
      - For the first one hundred twenty five thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 540.00
      - For each additional twenty five thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 60.00
   e. When the value of the property is more than five hundred thousand pesos:
      - For the first five hundred fifty thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 1,560.00
      - For each additional fifty thousand pesos, or fractional part thereof 120.00
2. For filing a petition for review of judgment and decree, or other claim adverse to the registered owner -
   - For each petition 120.00
3. For filing a petition after the decision has become final - If it affects land decree in more than one case - 120.00
   - For each additional case 6.00

B. Fees payable to the Sheriff - The Sheriff shall collect fees for his services rendered in connection with land registration and cadastral proceedings as follows:

1. For posting notices of initial hearing of land registration cases in conspicuous places on the lands described in the notice -
   - For each parcel of land on which a copy of such notice is posted, besides travel fees 18.00
2. For posting notices of initial hearing of cadastral cases in conspicuous places on the lands included in the survey -
   - For each group of one hundred lots on which a copy of the notice is posted, besides travel fees 18.00
3. For posting one copy of a notice of initial hearing in a conspicuous place upon the municipal building of the city, municipality, or municipal district in which the land or portion thereof lies, besides travel fees - 18.00
4. For serving notices upon cadastral claimants to appear before the court, travel fees only as provided in the Rules of Court.
5. For all other services not mentioned above, the same fees including travel fees as provided in the Rules of Court for similar services.

C. Fees payable to the Register of Deeds - The Register of Deeds shall collect fees for all services rendered by him under this Decree in accordance with the following schedule:

1. Original certificate of title - For the entry of one original certificate of title and issuance of one owner's duplicate certificate:
   - For the first parcel of land described thereon 60.00
   - For each additional parcel 30.00
2. Entry fee - For each entry in the primary entry book - 30.00
3. Attachment, levy etc. - For the annotation of an attachment, levy, writ or execution, adverse claim, for each parcel of land affected thereby - 30.00
4. Lis Pendens, etc. - For the annotation of a notice of lis pendens, or of any document or order in connection therewith, for each parcel of land affected thereby - 30.00
5. Release of encumbrance - For the annotation of a release of any encumbrance, except mortgage, lease or other lien for the cancellation of which a specific fee is prescribed herein, but the total amount of fees to be collected shall not exceed the amount of fees paid for the registration of such encumbrance, for each parcel of land as released - 30.00
6. Court Order - For the annotation of an order of the court for the amendment of, or the making of a memorandum on, a certificate of title, except inclusion of buildings and improvements, or any order directing the registration of a document, or any right or interest referred to in said order, or the cancellation of a certificate of title and/or the issuance of a new one -
   - For each certificate of title on which the annotation is made, in addition to the fees prescribed under paragraphs sixteen or seventeen, as the case may be, on this subsection, if the same are also due for the registration of such document, right of interest - 60.00
7. Building - For the annotation of an order of the court for the inclusion of building and/or improvement in a certificate of title, for each certificate of title - 60.00
8. Powers of attorney, letters of administration, appointment of guardian, resolution or revocation thereof - For registering and filing a power of attorney, letters of administration of letters testamentary whether or not accompanied by a copy of the testament, certificate of allowance of a will with attested copy of the will annexed, appointment of guardian for a minor or incompetent person, appointment of receiver, trustee, or administrator, articles of incorporation of any corporation, association or partnership, or resolution of its board of directors empowering an officer or member thereof to act in behalf of the same: 120.00

   For the annotation of such papers on certificates of title when required by existing laws or regulations, for each certificates of title so annotated: 30.00

   For registering an instrument of revocation of anyof the papers mentioned above - 30.00

   If annotated on the corresponding certificate of title, for each certificate of title - 18.00
9. Notice of tax lien, loss, etc. - For the annotation of a notice of tax lien of any description, notice of lost duplicate or copy of a certificate of title, order of the court declaring such duplicate or copy null and void, notice or change of address, or the cancellation of any such annotation, for each certificate of title - 30.00
10. Carry over of annotation - For transferring the memorandum of an encumbrance of any kind from one certificate of title which is cancelled to a new one in lieu thereof, for each memorandum thus transferred - 30.00
11. Annotation on additional copy of title - For any memorandum made in a standing co-owner's copy of a certificate of title after a similar memorandum has been made in the original thereof - for each certificate of title - 30.00
12. No specific fee - For any memorandum made in a certificate of title for which no specific fee is prescribed above, for each certificate of title - 30.00
13. Transfer to trustee, executor, administrator, receiver, - For the issuance of a transfer certificate of title - including its duplicate, to a trustee, executor, administrator, or receiver, or for the cancellation of such certificate of title and issuance of a new one, including its duplicate, to the qestui que trust in case of trusteeship - 60.00

    If the certificate covers more than one parcel of lot, an additional fee shall be collected for each additional parcel of lot - 30.00
14. Transfer certificate of title - For the issuance of a transfer certificate of title, including its duplicate, to a person other than those named in the next preceding paragraph, in addition to the fees hereinafter prescribed in paragraph sixteen or seventeen, as the case may be, of this subsection, if the same are also due - 60.00

    If the certificate covers more than one parcel or lot, and additional fee shall be collected for each additional parcel or lot - 30.00
15. Additional copy of title - For the issuance of a new owner's duplicate or co-owner's copy of certificate of title, or any additional duplicate or copy thereof:
    - For the first page 60.00
    - For each subsequent page 30.00
16. Registration fee - For the registration of a deed of sale, conveyance, transfer, exchange, partition, or donation: a deed of sale with pacto de retro, conditional sale, sheriff's sale at public auction, sale for non-payment of taxes, or any sale subject to redemption, or the repurchase or redemption of the property so sold; any instrument, order, judgment or decree divesting the title of the registered owner, except in favor of a trustee, executor, administrator or receiver; option to purchase or promise to sell: any mortgage, surety, bond, lease, easement, right-of-way, or other real right or lien created or constituted by virtue of a district contract or agreement, and not as an incidental condition of sale, transfer or conveyance: the assignment, enlargement, extension or novation of a mortgage or of any other real right, or a release or mortgage, termination of lease, or consolidation of ownership over a property sold with pacto de retro: where no specific fee is prescribed therefore in preceeding paragraphs, the fees shall be based on the value of the consideration in accordance with the following schedule:

VALUE OF CONSIDERATION

More than	Not Exceeding	
00.00	500.00	21.00
500.00	1,000.00	30.00
1,000.00	1,500.00	39.00
1,500.00	2,000.00	48.00
2,000.00	2,500.00	57.00
2,500.00	3,000.00	66.00
3,000.00	3,500.00	75.00
3,500.00	4,000.00	84.00
4,000.00	4,500.00	93.00
4,500.00	5,000.00	102.00
5,000.00	5,500.00	111.00
5,500.00	6,000.00	120.00
6,000.00	8,000.00	144.00
8,000.00	10,000.00	168.00
10,000.00	12,000.00	192.00
12,000.00	14,000.00	216.00
14,000.00	16,000.00	240.00
16,000.00	18,000.00	264.00
18,000.00	20,000.00	288.00
20,000.00	22,000.00	312.00
22,000.00	24,000.00	336.00
24,000.00	26,000.00	360.00
26,000.00	28,000.00	384.00
28,000.00	30,000.00	408.00
30,000.00	35,000.00	450.00
35,000.00	40,000.00	492.00
40,000.00	45,000.00	534.00
45,000.00	50,000.00	576.00
50,000.00	55,000.00	618.00
55,000.00	60,000.00	660.00
60,000.00	65,000.00	702.00
65,000.00	70,000.00	744.00
70,000.00	75,000.00	786.00
75,000.00	80,000.00	828.00
80,000.00	85,000.00	870.00
85,000.00	90,000.00	912.00
90,000.00	95,000.00	954.00
95,000.00	100,000.00	996.00
100,000.00	110,000.00	1,056.00
110,000.00	120,000.00	1,116.00
120,000.00	130,000.00	1,176.00
130,000.00	140,000.00	1,236.00
140,000.00	150,000.00	1,296.00
150,000.00	160,000.00	1,356.00
160,000.00	170,000.00	1,416.00
170,000.00	180,000.00	1,476.00
180,000.00	190,000.00	1,536.00
190,000.00	200,000.00	1,596.00
200,000.00	210,000.00	1,656.00
210,000.00	220,000.00	1,716.00
220,000.00	230,000.00	1,776.00
230,000.00	240,000.00	1,836.00
240,000.00	250,000.00	1,896.00
250,000.00	260,000.00	1,956.00
260,000.00	270,000.00	2,016.00
270,000.00	280,000.00	2,076.00
280,000.00	290,000.00	2,136.00
290,000.00	300,000.00	2,196.00
300,000.00	310,000.00	2,256.00
310,000.00	320,000.00	2,316.00
320,000.00	330,000.00	2,376.00
330,000.00	340,000.00	2,436.00
340,000.00	350,000.00	2,496.00
350,000.00	360,000.00	2,556.00
360,000.00	370,000.00	2,616.00
370,000.00	380,000.00	2,676.00
380,000.00	390,000.00	2,736.00
390,000.00	400,000.00	2,796.00
400,000.00	410,000.00	2,856.00
410,000.00	420,000.00	2,916.00
420,000.00	430,000.00	2,976.00
430,000.00	440,000.00	3,036.00
440,000.00	450,000.00	3,096.00
450,000.00	460,000.00	3,156.00
460,000.00	470,000.00	3,216.00
470,000.00	480,000.00	3,276.00
480,000.00	490,000.00	3,336.00
490,000.00	500,000.00	3,396.00
500,000.00	520,000.00	3,486.00
520,000.00	540,000.00	3,576.00
540,000.00	560,000.00	3,666.00
560,000.00	580,000.00	3,756.00
580,000.00	600,000.00	3,846.00
600,000.00	620,000.00	3,936.00
620,000.00	640,000.00	4,026.00
640,000.00	660,000.00	4,116.00
660,000.00	680,000.00	4,206.00
680,000.00	700,000.00	4,296.00
700,000.00	720,000.00	4,386.00
720,000.00	740,000.00	4,476.00
740,000.00	760,000.00	4,566.00
760,000.00	780,000.00	4,656.00
780,000.00	800,000.00	4,746.00
800,000.00	820,000.00	4,836.00
820,000.00	840,000.00	4,926.00
840,000.00	860,000.00	5,016.00
860,000.00	880,000.00	5,106.00
880,000.00	900,000.00	5,196.00
900,000.00	920,000.00	5,286.00
920,000.00	940,000.00	5,376.00
940,000.00	960,000.00	5,466.00
960,000.00	980,000.00	5,556.00
980,000.00	1,000,000.00	5,646.00
1,000,000.00	1,020,000.00	5,736.00
1,020,000.00	1,040,000.00	5,826.00
1,040,000.00	1,060,000.00	5,916.00
1,060,000.00	1,080,000.00	6,006.00
1,080,000.00	1,100,000.00	6,096.00
1,100,000.00	1,120,000.00	6,186.00
1,120,000.00	1,140,000.00	6,276.00
1,140,000.00	1,160,000.00	6,366.00
1,160,000.00	1,180,000.00	6,456.00
1,180,000.00	1,200,000.00	6,546.00
1,200,000.00	1,220,000.00	6,636.00
1,220,000.00	1,240,000.00	6,726.00
1,240,000.00	1,260,000.00	6,816.00
1,260,000.00	1,280,000.00	6,906.00
1,280,000.00	1,300,000.00	6,996.00
1,300,000.00	1,320,000.00	7,086.00
1,320,000.00	1,340,000.00	7,176.00
1,340,000.00	1,360,000.00	7,266.00
1,360,000.00	1,380,000.00	7,356.00
1,380,000.00	1,400,000.00	7,446.00
1,400,000.00	1,420,000.00	7,536.00
1,420,000.00	1,440,000.00	7,626.00
1,440,000.00	1,460,000.00	7,716.00
1,460,000.00	1,480,000.00	7,806.00
1,480,000.00	1,500,000.00	7,896.00
1,500,000.00	1,520,000.00	7,986.00
1,520,000.00	1,540,000.00	8,076.00
1,540,000.00	1,560,000.00	8,166.00
1,560,000.00	1,580,000.00	8,256.00
1,580,000.00	1,600,000.00	8,346.00
1,600,000.00	1,620,000.00	8,436.00
1,620,000.00	1,640,000.00	8,526.00
1,640,000.00	1,660,000.00	8,616.00
1,660,000.00	1,680,000.00	8,706.00
1,680,000.00	1,700,000.00	8,796.00

And for every P20,000.00 or fraction thereof; in excess of P1,700,000.00, in addition to fee of 8,796.00 90.00

17. Issuance of copy of document - for furnishing copies of any entry, decree, document, or other papers on file - for each hundred words or fraction thereof contained in the copies thus furnished - 3.00
18. Certified copy - For certifying a copy furnished under the next preceeding paragraph, for each certification:
    - For one page certified 30.00
    - For each additional page certified 6:00
19. Certification - For issuing a certification relative to or showing the existence or non-existence of, an entry in the registration books or a document on file, for each such certificate containing not more than two hundred words - 30.00

    If this exceeds that number an additional fee shall be collected for every hundred words, or fraction thereof, in excess of the first two hundred words - 6.00
20. Research fee - For services rendered in attending to request for reference or researches on any records or documents on file in the Registry, there shall be collected per document or record - 12.00

D. Fees payable to the Administrator of Land Registration -

The fees payable to the Administrator of Land Registration shall be as follows:

1. For verification and approval of subdivision plans, the fee shall be:
   a. For each lot 12.00
   b. For each corner of a lot, irrespective of whether such corner is common to the two or more lot 1.20
   c. For each traverse station 0.60
   d. For each observation 3.00
   e. In case the plan is a resurvey or relocation plan, an additional 40 percent of the rates prescribed above shall be collected.

   Provided, however, that the total fee as computed above, whether for subdivision survey, resurvey or relocation plan, shall in no case be less than - 48.00
2. For changing or correcting the name of any person appearing on the subdivision plan or other plan in order to have it conform to that stated in the certificate of title covering the land, and for the cancellation an approved plan when so requested by the interested party, there shall be a fee of - 30.00
3. The rates of fees prescribed in paragraphs 1 and 2, inclusive shall apply to similar services rendered in connection with the examination, verification and approval of consolidation, consolidation-subdivision, resubdivision, and reconsolidation plans, special work order plans on the basis of certified copies of technical descriptions of plans approved by the Land Registration or the Land Management Bureau, private surveys, and other plans of similar nature in the computation of fees relative to lots subject of consolidation and consolidation-subdivision plans, a fee shall be collected per lot as appearing in the old survey in addition to the fee collectible in paragraph 1 hereof for the lots - 12.00
4. For the preparation of a plan in tracing cloth of any survey the data of which are available in the Authority, except when same is merely traced from an existing plan - the fees shall be computed as follows:
   a. When the plan to be so prepared contained only one lot:
      1. For the first ten corners or fraction thereof 240.00
      2. For the next ten corners or fraction thereof 36.00
      3. For each corner in excess of the first twenty corners 2.40
   b. When the plan to be so prepared contains two or more lots:
      1. For the first lot which must be the biggest of the group, irrespective of the number of its corners 240.00
      2. For each additional lot irrespective of the number of its corner, said lot being adjacent to the first lot or any other lot 90.00
      3. For each non-adjacent lot (other than the first charged lot), irrespective of the number of its corners 120.00
      4. If any lot contains more than twenty corners of such lot in the first twenty corners 2.40
5. For the preparation of a plan in tracing cloth, to be traced from an existing plan, complete with bearings and distances of corners and the-lines, the fee shall be 30 per centrum of the fees prescribed in paragraph 4 above.
6. For the preparation of plan in tracing cloth, to be copied from an existing plan, complete with bearings and distances of sides and tie-lines, but using a different scale, the fee shall be 50 per centrum of the fees prescribed under paragraph 4 above, if made on a reduced scale: or 60 per centrum of the same fees, if made on an enlarged scale.
7. For the preparation of a simple plan or sketch of any available survey or plan on any paper other than a tracing cloth, the fee on the basis of each lot, shall be as follows:
   a. For the first ten corners or fraction thereof 120.00
   b. For the second ten corners or fraction thereof 30.00
   c. For the third ten corners or fraction thereof 12.00
   d. For each corner in excess of the first thirty corners 1.20
   e. If the sketch is prepareed in tracing cloth, add to the total fees as above computed 30.00
   f. If the plan or sketch so prepared contains the bearingand distances of the sides and tie-lines, add to the total as above computed 10 per centrum thereof.
8. For furnishing a plan copy (blue print, or white print) of any plan on file in the Authority, the fees shall be as follows:
   a. For the copy of any size not exceeding forty square decimeters 18.00
   b. For one copy of more than forty square decimeters but not exceeding eighty square decimeters in size 36.00
   c. For one copy of more than eighty square decimeters but not exceeding one hundred twenty square decimeter in size 54.00
   d. For one copy in excess of one hundred twenty square decimeter in size the basic rate of twenty seven pesos plus for every twenty square decimeters or fraction thereof in excess. 3.00
9. For the preparation of technical descriptions, other than mere copying from an existing copy, there shall be collected the following fees:
   a. For technical description of lots or parcel, typewritten in triplicate and doublespaced, including certification:
      1. For each lot 18.00
      2. For each corner of a lot 1.20
      3. For each extra copy, extra charge 1.20
      4. Minimum total charge 18.00
   b. For lot description prepared in tracing cloth (on tabulated form) including certification:
      1. For each sheet 9.00
      2. For each lot 1.20
      3. For each corner in excess of ten for a lot 0.60
10. For certification of plans or copies of plans as to the correctness of the same, per plan or print copy 18.00
    and for the issuance of all other certifications - 30.00
11. For inspection of lands subject of private surveys, simple or complex subdivision plans, or consolidation, consolidation-subdivision, resubdivision, or re-consolidation plans special work orders, and other plans of similar nature for the purpose of verification and/or approval:
    a. For each plan with an aggregate area of 1,000 sq.meters or less 600.00
    b. For each subdivision with an aggregate area of more than 1,000 sq.m.
       1. For the first 1,000 sq. meters 600.00
       2. For every succeeding 1,000 sq. meters or fraction thereof 60.00
12. For actual field work of subdivision survey, relocation survey and resurvey of land, the fees shall be as follows:
    a. Subdivision survey:
       1. Rural (Agricultural)
          Area
          For the first hectare 2,100.00
          For the second hectare to 10th hectare.
          An additional per ha. 360.00
          For the 11th hectare to 20th ha.
          An additional per hectare 180.00
          For the 21st hectare to 30th ha.
          An additional per hectare 120.00
          For the 31st hectare to 200th ha.
          An additional per hectare. 60.00
          For 201st hectare or over.
          An additional per hectare 48.00
       2. Urban (Solar)
          For 220 sq. meters or less 2,100.00
          Succeeding 201 sq. meters or more
          (per 100 sq. meters) 120.00

SEC. 116 : Fees for chattel mortgages, etc. – The Register of Deeds shall collect the following fees for services rendered by him under this section:

1. Entry fee – For entry or presentation of any document in the Primary Entry Book 30.00
2. Chattel Mortgage – For filing and recording each chattel mortgage including the necessary certificates and affidavits, the fees established in Sec. 111;C.16
3. Notice of Attachment – For recording each notice of attachment, including the necessary index and annotations - 48.00
4. Release of Attachment – For recording each release of attachment, including the proper annotations. 30.00
5. Sheriff's return of sale – For recording each sheriff's return of sale including the index and references - 42.00
6. Power of Attorney, appointment of guardian, administrator or trustee – For recording a power of attorneys appointment of judicial guardian, administrator or trustee, or any other instrument in which a person is given power to act in behalf of another in connection with a mortgage 60.00
7. No Specific Fee – For recording each instrument or order relating to a recorded mortgage, including the necessary index and references for which no specific fee is provided above - 30.00
8. Certification – For issuing a certificate relative to, or showing the existence or non-existence of an entry in the registration book, or a document on file, for each such certificate containing not more than two hundred words - 30.00
   If it exceeds that number, an additional fee shall be collected for every one hundred words or fractional part thereof in excess of the first two hundred words – 6.00
9. Research Fee – For services rendered in attending to requests for references to, or researches on any document on file in the Registry, there shall be collected a fee per document of - 12.00

For implementation.

(Sgd.) **HON. BENEDICTO B. ULEP**
Administrator

Approved:
(Sgd.) **HON. HERNANDO B. PEREZ**
Secretary of Justice

(PDI--Jan. 10 & 17, 2003)

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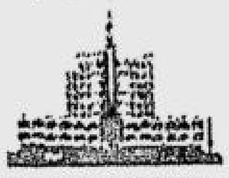

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NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE
Be it known that on December 9, 2002 the heirs of the late VICTORIA C. CRISOSTOMO who died on Aug. 30, 2002 have extrajudicially settled her estate per Doc. No. 206, Page No. 43, Book No. V, Series of 2002, of Notary Public of Las Pinas City, ARCEBIDO M. GERVACIO. (PDI - January 10, 17 and 24 2003)

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Katayama Chain Co., Ltd. of Japan is one of the leading manufacturers o roller chains and sprockets bearing the trademark "KANA". It is the registered owner of the aforesaid trademark "KANA". The Intellectua Property Office issued on July 2, 1996 Certificate of Registration numbe 63251 for KANA chains and sprockets.

It has recently come to the attention of Katayama Chain Co., Ltd. tha unauthorized persons are importing, distributing and selling counterfeit KAN products.

Notice is hereby given to concerned parties and the public that **GYH Industria Sales Corporation** is the distributor of KANA products in the Philippines.

The public is strongly urged to purchase only from **GYH Industrial Sales Corporation** or its authorized sub-dealers.

Any retailer, dealer or store suspected of or found to be selling or dealing ir unauthorized KANA products which infringe the KANA brand will be dealt with the prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Under the Intellectual Property Code (Republic Act No. 8293), trademark infringement is punishable by imprisonment of up to three (3) years plus a fine of up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 150,000.00). This does no include damages of up to three (3) times the amount of estimated damage.

QUIASON MAKALINTAL BAROT TORRES & IBARRA
Counsel for GYH Industrial Sales Corporation
21st Floor Robinsons Equitable Tower
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet
074-422-5064/6060

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration, Cordillera Administrative Region hereby invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of 1,596 lm. 24" diameter HDPE DUAL PIPE COLORED EXCEPT Black Color, 25 mm Wall Thickness, 1.9mm Profile Thickness and Minimum of 0.10 MPA Pipe Stiffness with Smooth Inside Wall Surface, Leakage Free HDPE Coupler, for use of Butigue-Dannal CIS Extension with an Approved Budget for Contract of P6, 931,353.60.

Bid documents can be obtained by interested suppliers/bidders starting on **January 13, 2003** from the BAC Secretariat, NIA-CAR, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

Eligible bidders are requested to register with the BAC Secretariat prior to attending the Pre-Bid Conference at **NIA-CAR, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet on January 27, 2003, 10 AM.** Only registered bidders will be allowed to submit bids. All bidders shall submit their sealed bids in the prescribed form to the BAC Secretariat not later than **2 PM on February 7, 2003.**

The opening of bids of notified eligible bidders shall be as follows:

Opening of Bids : **February 7, 2003**
Time : 2:00 PM.
Place : NIA-CAR, Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet

The NIA-CAR reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any defect or informality therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) NORMALITO B. TAMAYO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – January 10 & 17, 2003)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested insurance service contractors of Life Insurance Companies and Health Maintenance Organizations to apply for eligibility and to bid for the rebidding of NFA's 2003 Group Insurance Programs as follows:

Programs	No. of Employees/Officials	Approved Budget
Group Hospitalization	4,418	P 10,760,230.00
Group Term Life	4,706	5,523,933.00
Group Accident	4,706	1,854,160.00
Executive Health Care	134	949,256.00
TOTAL		P 19,087,579.00

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

January 13-21, 2003		Issuance and Submission of Registration Requirements
January 23-24, 2003		Notification of Registered Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
January 28, 2003	(10:00 a.m.)	Pre-bidding Conference
February 12, 2003	(9:00 - 10:30 a.m.)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals
	(10:45 a.m.)	Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals

Those who were previously registered are automatically qualified to participate in the rebidding. Registration and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to duly registered bidders upon payment of P2,000.00, non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator & Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan. 10 & 17, 2003)

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Tel. No. 920-55-81 to 99, 921-56-01 Fax No.: (632) 922-34-84
Administration's Direct Line: (02) 929-61-07
Administration's E-mail Address: lhjamora@mozcom.com
LWUA E-Mail Address: lwua@mozcom.com

December 17, 2002.

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 008-02

TO : ALL WATER DISTRICTS
SUBJECT : REVIEW OF WATER TARIFF ADJUSTMENTS OF WATER DISTRICTS

The Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) made known its stand on Executive Order (EO) No. 123, entitled: "Reconstituting the National Water Resources Board", particularly Sec. 6, thereof.

In its letter dated 04 December 2002 addressed to Hon. Avelino Cruz, Jr., Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Office of the President, copy of which attached as Annex "A", LWUA stated thus:

> "In view of the foregoing, while we adhere to the legal principle that an Executive Order cannot effectively amend a Presidential Decree, we take the stand that LWUA will continue reviewing the water tariff adjustments of water districts which it has financial exposure and upon the satisfactory completion thereof the approved rates shall then be implemented in accordance with Section 63 of PD 198, as amended. To promote the financial viability of these water districts, we shall accordingly inform the water districts in a circular the soonest."

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **LORENZO H. JAMORA**
Administrator

(PDI – Jan. 13, 15 & 17, 2003)

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size: 3 lines
cost: P165 VAT inclusive

My heart beats for you and only for you, Tim. This Valentine's day, let's paint the town red – Mimi

size: 4 lines
cost: P220 VAT inclusive

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OBITUARIES

OSCAR ONG YU

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 15, 2003 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife **Rosita**; children **Terry** and **Eugene, Carmela, Jojo** and **Jill**; grandchildren **Bettina, Christian, Ethan, Gillian, Iliana** and **Ysabelle**, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Chapel, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, January 18, 2003 at Loyola Crematorium, Guadalupe, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

RICARDO PASCUAL GRANADOS

was called home to the Lord on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 at the age of 86.

His loving wife Cely; children Rey & Doris, Grace, Rob and grandchildren Nina, Isobel and Felice request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be cremated today at 2:00 p.m. following the Holy Celebration of the Mass at 1:00 p.m.

Vispedencia Reyes De Guzman

Executive Director (Ret)
National Parks Development Committee

Completed a life of service and leadership on January 15, 2003

Her beloved husband **Ed**; children **Boylit, Jun Jun, Chi Chi** & **Eric** and **Maniya**, relatives and friends celebrate the woman whose touch will forever be etched in our memories.

Her remains lie in state at Aguinaldo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City and cremation will be on Sunday, January 19, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

EDDIE UY

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 13, 2003 at the age of 48.

His bereaved parents JOSE A. UY & TO CHAD; brother RODOLFO UY; sister JENNIFER UY SY; sister-in-law FRANCES SO UY; brother-in-law VICENTE SY; nephews ROCHESTER, REYVIN & ANDREW request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, January 19, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite City after the 7:00 a.m. Mass

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DR. ANTONIO PRADO ZANTUA

(May 10, 1933 – January 15, 2003)
of Naga City, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes

Passed away peacefully after receiving the last Holy Sacraments of the Holy Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church.

His loving wife **Paz Lizaso- Zantua**; children **Ma. Cecilia, Mary Jane, Omar Anthony** and **Ma. Paz**; son-in-law **Ronald Allan**, and grandson **Anthony John Zantua Allan**, kindly request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will be brought from Virac, Catanduanes to St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes, Makati City on Monday, January 20, 2003.

Interment to be announced.

He is already so lovingly missed.

In Loving Memory

on the Twenty Fourth (24th) Death Anniversary of

EUFRASIA COSTA DE VITUG

who died January 17, 1979

and on the Forty Fifth (45th) Death Anniversary of

VICTOR BELTRAN VITUG

who died February 1, 1958

Their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come..."
Psalm 23:6

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Our Dearly Beloved Papa

DR. RAFAEL TALAMPAS HERNANDEZ

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 15th of January, 2003 at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife **Virginia Yaptiangco Hernandez**;

children	and grandchildren
Rey Alfred and **Joyce**	**Ma. Dominique** and **Leal Angelo**
Revico and **Jocel**	
Ramon and **Athena**	**Iris Camille**

They and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

JOSE GA GEOTINA, M.D.

U.S.T. Medicine Class '49
13 March 1922 - 13 January 2003

His loving wife **Nephtaly**; children **Ma. Lina & Manuel Calejesan, Daniel & Yvette Geotina, Leah & Manuel Loveria**; grandchildren bid him Godspeed as he journeys back to the Father.

Vigil is being held at the family residence on 385 Amat St., Surigao City.

Interment will be on Sunday, 19 January 2003, after the funeral Mass at 2:00 p.m. at the Surigao Memorial Park Chapel.

"Pour out your heart before Him; God is refuge for us."
Psalm 62:8

"I am the resurrection and the life,
He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies;
And whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory

JONATHAN "Johnny" MATTHEW TEE

January 19, 1945 – January 18, 1999
On his 4th Death Anniversary

His wife **Linda**; daughter **"Jet-Jet"**; sisters **Bernie** and **Charlotte** request relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

The Holy Mass will be offered tomorrow, January 18th at the following churches:

Santuario de San Jose (Greenhills) — 6:15 AM and 7:15 PM
Mary the Queen Parish (Greenhills) — 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM
St. Francis Parish Church (Shaw Blvd.) — 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori (Magallanes) — 6:00 PM
Redemptorist Church (Baclaran) — 6:45 AM

"Beloved wife and Mother Forever in our Hearts"

In Loving Memory
on the
Second Death Anniversary
of

Elizabeth Tolentino Fontanilla

September 4, 1943 – January 17, 2001

Her loving husband **Antonio**; children **John, Francis** and **Nemia, Melissa** and **Kathleen** and grandchildren **Lizzy** and **Niqui** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul

Masses shall be offered at 6:00 a.m. of said date.

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS

Capital flight overstated by $3B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas disclosed yesterday that capital flight in 2000 and 2001 was overstated by $3.103 billion and $3.506 billion because the government got incorrect import data, interpreting some as outflows in short-term capital.

Even the level of errors and omissions that analysts consider as a form of capital flight should have been only $200 million each in 2000 and 2001 instead of $3.5 billion and more than $1 billion.

The net outflow in capital and financial accounts should have been $3.366 billion instead of $6.469 billion in 2000 and $224 million instead of $3.73 billion in 2001.

"The significant short-term outflow was earlier interpreted as an indication of capital flight in 2000 and 2001. The positive correction in the capital account now shows this was not the case," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The government cut its current account surpluses for 2000 and 2001, continuing an economic data review that dented appetite for a key global bond sale.

The central bank said the latest move followed changes to its merchandise imports statistics announced on Wednesday.

Officials have said errors that inflated the country's trade surpluses—due to underreporting of imports of electronic components—would not hurt the country's overall balance of payments position.

The current account surplus in 2000 was revised down to $5.87 billion from $9.189 billion, while the surplus in 2001 was lowered to $305 million from $4.025 billion.

"The revisions in imports and the BOP statistics are part of the continued efforts of authorities to improve the Philippine statistical systems with the view to improving upon the robustness and reliability of economic and financial data, which are prerequisites to informed policy decisions," Buenaventura said in a statement.

The central bank added that it would re-work the data for 2002 as soon as the statistics office changes the imports data for last year, which are expected to be available at the end of January.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who announced the changes in imports data on Wednesday, has said the revisions would have no effect on gross domestic product data. *With a report from Reuters*

RP pineapples soon in China

THE PHILIPPINES will export fresh pineapples to China this year, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

In an interview, Lorenzo said apart from fresh bananas, other tropical fruits, such as pineapples, could reach mainland China and its other provinces by June.

Lorenzo said China was committed to cutting some more its tariffs on fresh bananas exported by countries in Southeast Asia this year. China used to slap a 70- to 100-percent tariff on fresh bananas. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

DENNIS Lustico

Denim *forever*

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Romy Hornillada

SWIMSUITS made from stretch denim. Corsets fashioned from strips of denim that were woven together like baskets. Vintage-inspired Filipino wear that combined sturdy denim with soft embroidered *piña*.

These were just some of the new forms and uses assumed by the lowly but versatile *maong* in the hands of members of the Fashion Designers Council of the Philippines. The group's recent fashion show at the World Trade Center also marked the launch of Manila Wear 2003, a collection of clothes that the FDCP will showcase in a major trade show in Shanghai sometime in March.

But why focus on denim?

"Rather than complain about what we don't have," said veteran fashion designer Lulu Tan-Gan, FDCP chair, "we decided to work on denim, which we have plenty of."

DENIM/ C4

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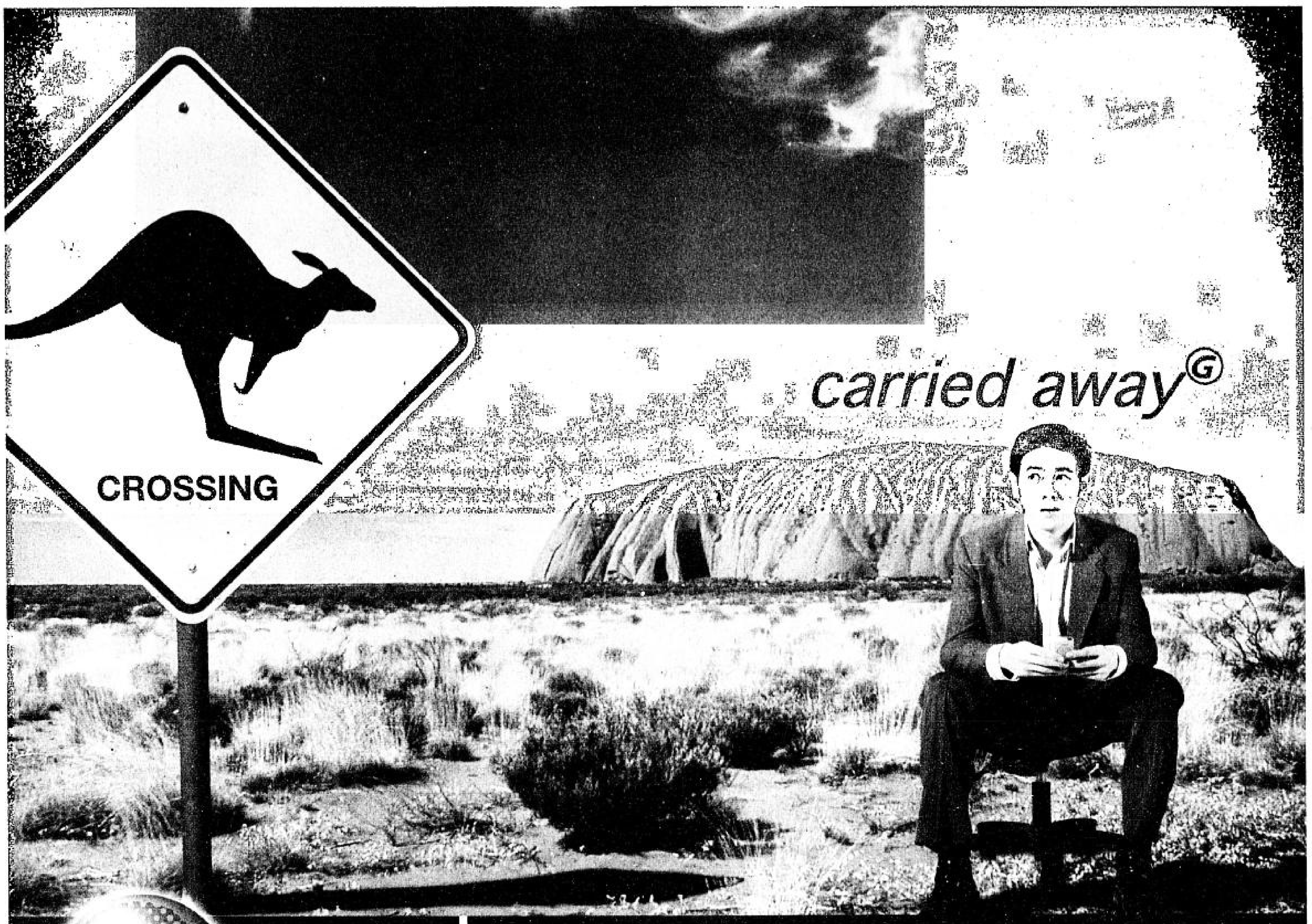

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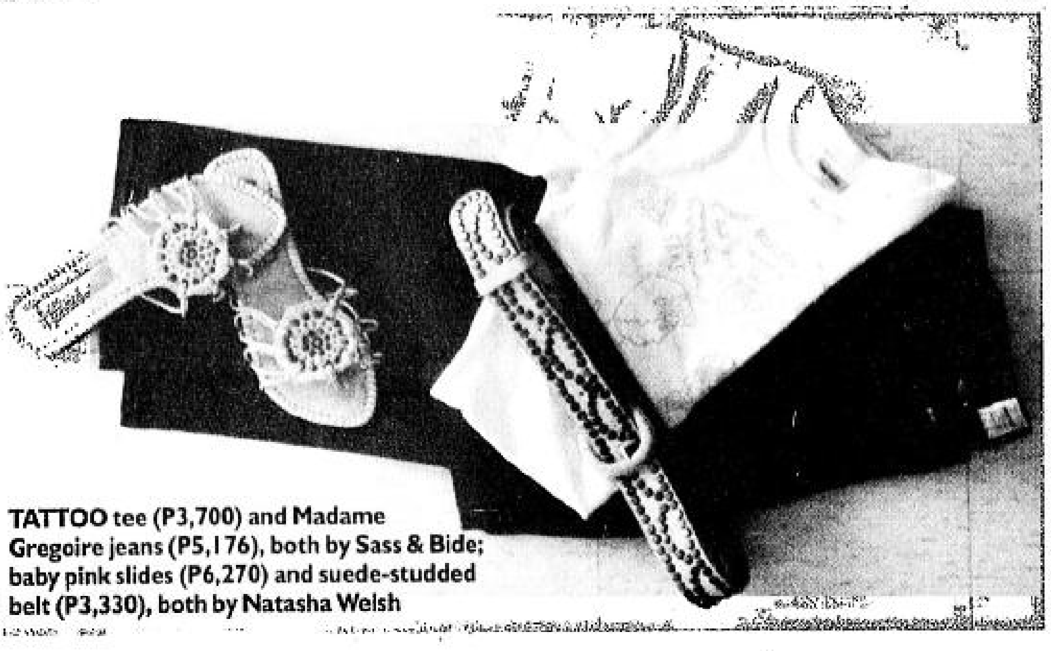


TATTOO tee (P3,700) and Madame Gregoire jeans (P5,176), both by Sass & Bide; baby pink slides (P6,270) and suede-studded belt (P3,330), both by Natasha Welsh

THONGS with flower studs by Natasha Welsh (P5,440); top with gathered three-quarter sleeves (P2,990), lace retro bra and square side pants (P4,660) and shopper bag (P2,330), all by Zimmermann

A Goliath in its own fashion

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

DON'T let the name fool you. Itsie-Bitsie is a teeny-weeny shop, all right, and it's the only one in town. But it's so huge in style it can definitely give the swankiest and biggest boutiques a run for their money.

Itsie-Bitsie is a biggie among fashionistas who want to stand out

Luxe labels

With its extensive selection of luxurious labels initially available only in the most chi-chi shops in the world (Barneys in New York, Lane Crawford in Hong Kong, Harvey Nichols in London), small wonder Itsie-Bitsie has attracted the most stylish urbanites hereabouts since it opened a little over a year ago. Its choice, cutting-edge pieces make every fashionista feel like she has her very own personal shopper—that in a city where personal shoppers are almost never heard of! (Did we mention the store could arrange personal fittings—in your own home?)

The shop is the answer to the constant quest of the hip set for clothes that set them a cut above the rest. After all, what true-blue fashionista worth her Pablo Nevada threads would sink so low as to wear something—or someone— that everybody else is wearing?

Itsie-Bitsie stocks up only on exclusive labels not likely to be found in any other store in town. So exclusive are the brands that some are scantly familiar even to other imported rag traders.

Denim and things

For denim devotees, there's the US brand Paper Denim & Cloth. Michael Stars and Three Dots are for those looking for an edge to basic tees. Any woman in a hot Sass & Bide number will definitely be the star of the show. (In doubt? Ask Sarah Jessica Parker.) You can never go wrong with Australian favorites Lisa Ho and Ty + Melita's classic and trendy pieces.

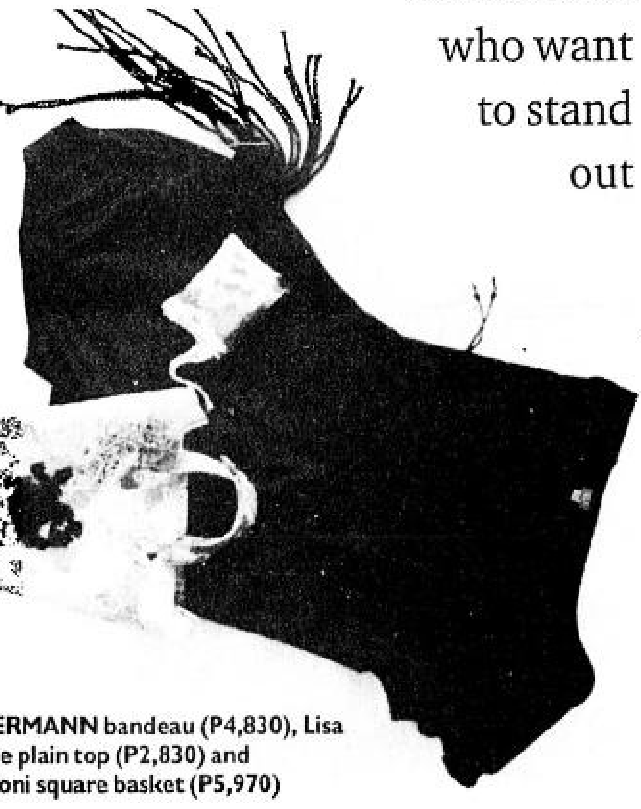
How can you pass up Natasha Welsh's pretty, pretty thongs and slides? And while you're at it, accent your lobes with Sophie Kyron's exquisite jewelry pieces.

Don't forget to grab a Vanessa Bruno (from France) or Riedizioni tote (from Italy) before you head for the door.

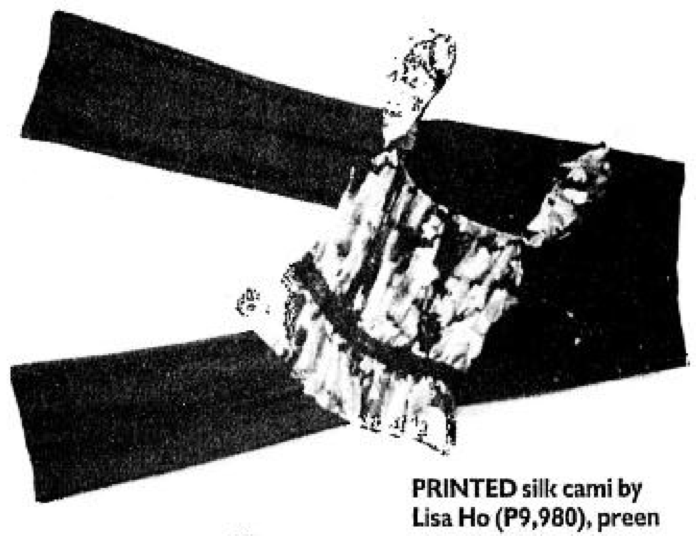
Itsie-Bitsie swimwear ranges from the more conservative maillots to ultra-sexy two-piece thingees, such as Australia's Zimmermann label.

Oh sure, exclusivity has its (tag) price, but if you live for the good things, price is hardly ever an issue, right? As any Itsie-Bitsie patron will tell you: It's worth it.

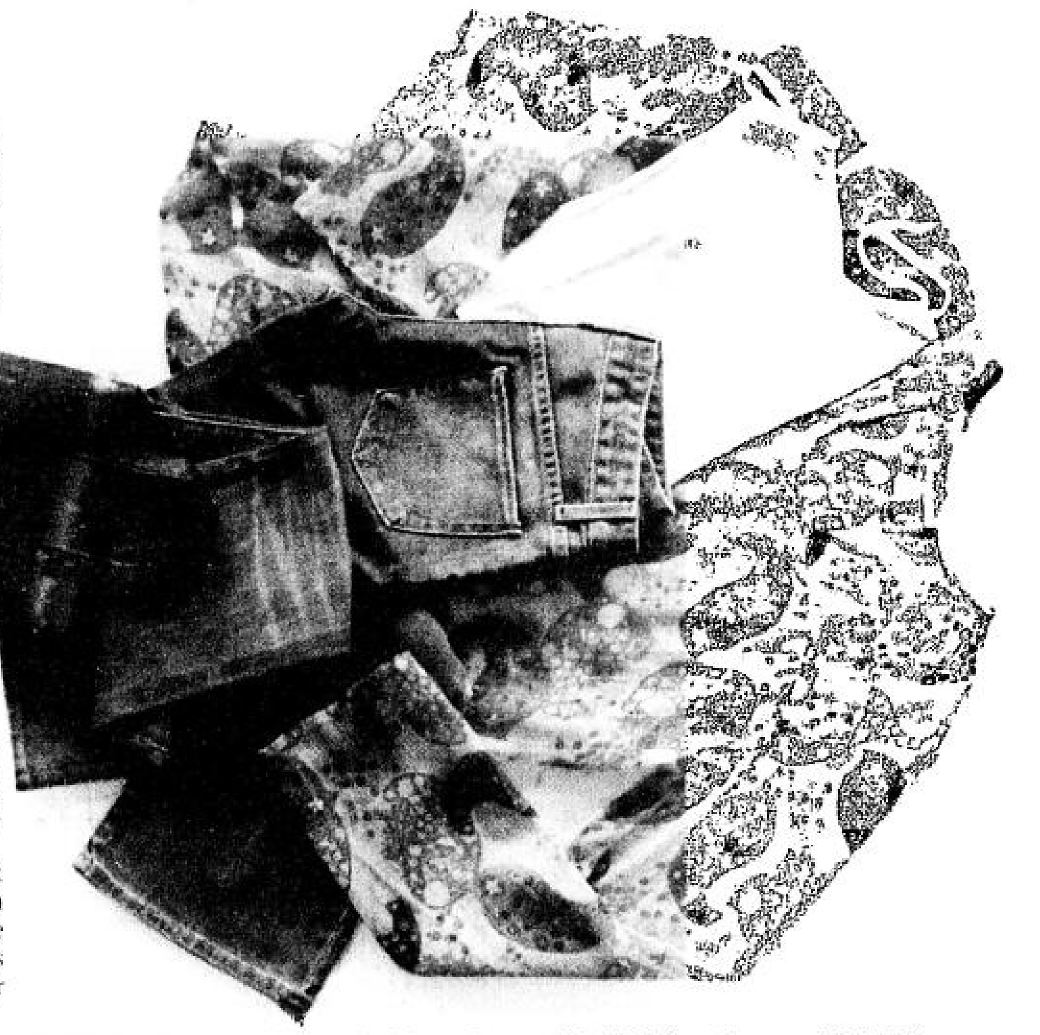
TWIST halter tank and microshort by Zimmermann (P4,830), Natasha Welsh thongs with copper studs (P5,120) and sarong with beaded edge by Calypso (P2,670)



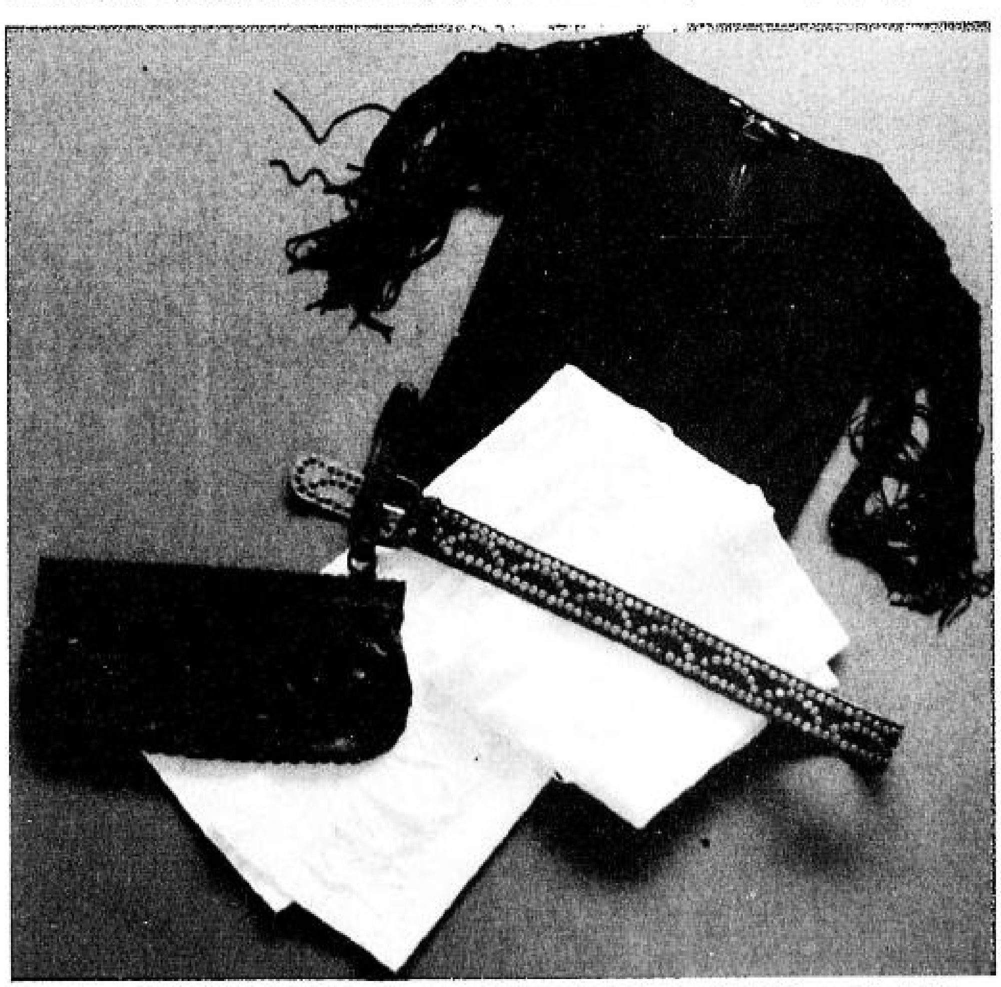
ZIMMERMANN bandeau (P4,830), Lisa Ho voile plain top (P2,830) and Riedizioni square basket (P5,970)



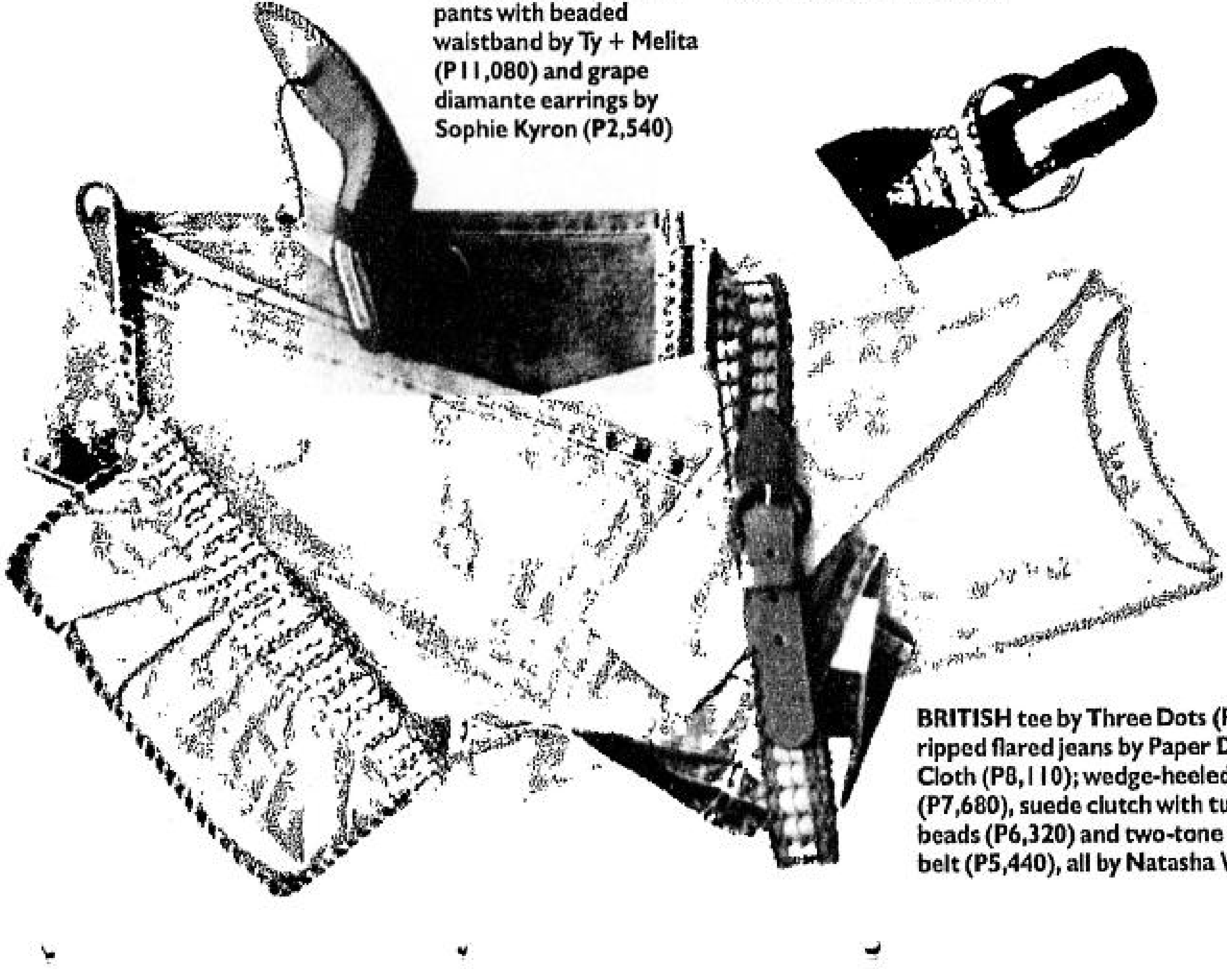
PRINTED silk cami by Lisa Ho (P9,980), preen pants with beaded waistband by Ty + Melita (P11,080) and grape diamante earrings by Sophie Kyron (P2,540)



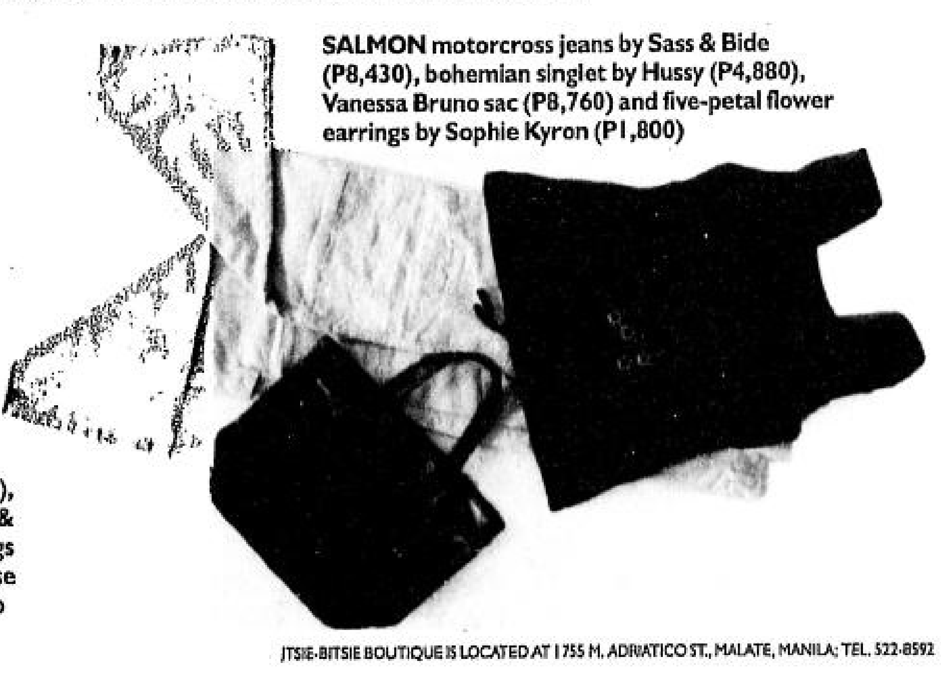
PAISLEY chiffon smock blouse by Wayne Cooper (P9,470), Three Dots cami (P2,550), super low flare jeans by Paper Denim & Cloth (P8,020) and small tote by Riedizioni (P2,510)



TEEPEE top by Ty + Melita (P7,710), Bettina Liano crisscross pants (P6,900); studded belt (P3,330) and leather clutch (P6,320), both by Natasha Welsh

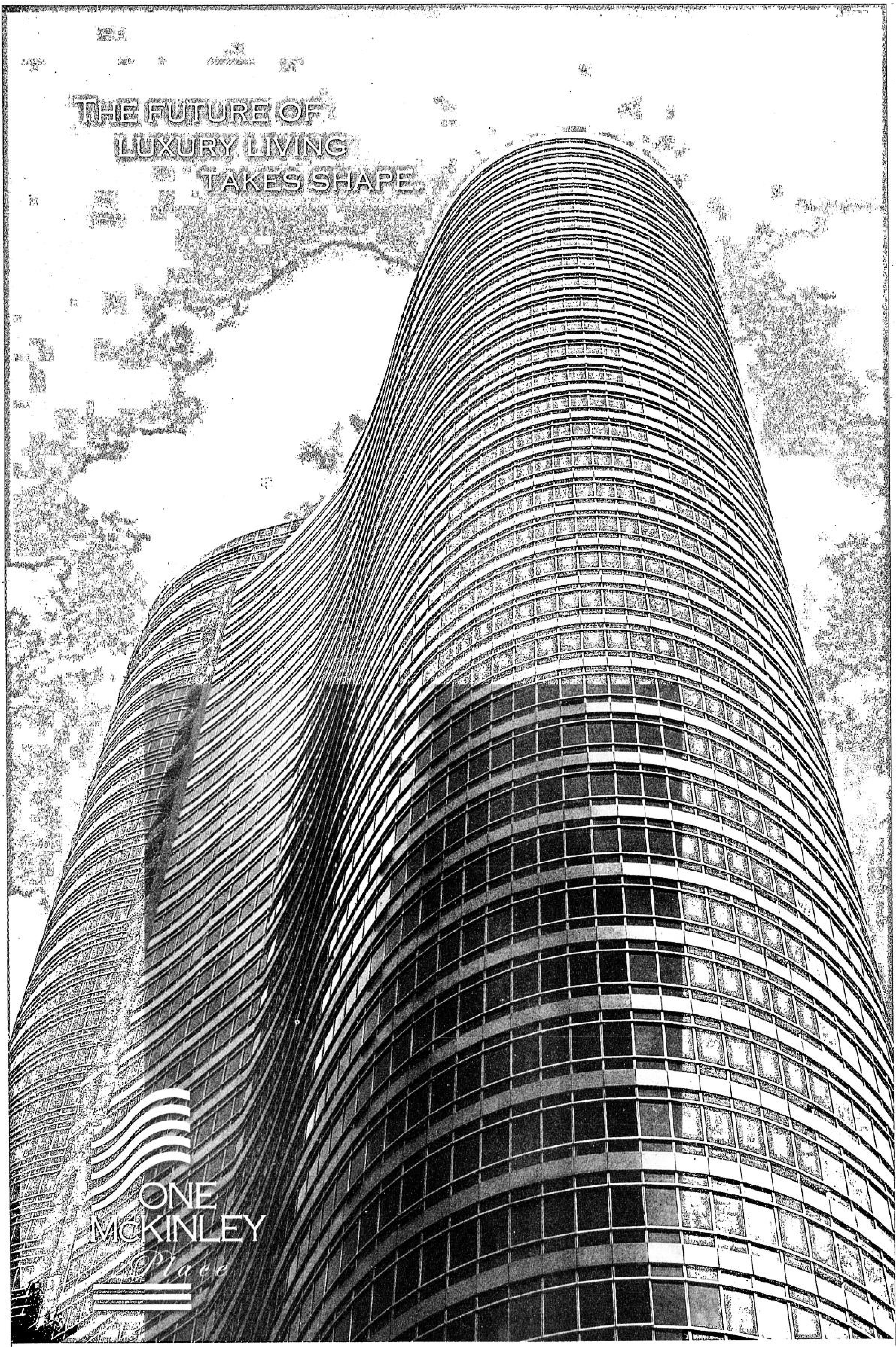


BRITISH tee by Three Dots (P2,177), ripped flared jeans by Paper Denim & Cloth (P8,110); wedge-heeled thongs (P7,680), suede clutch with turquoise beads (P6,320) and two-tone combo belt (P5,440), all by Natasha Welsh



SALMON motorcross jeans by Sass & Bide (P8,430), bohemian singlet by Hussy (P4,880), Vanessa Bruno sac (P8,760) and five-petal flower earrings by Sophie Kyron (P1,800)

ITSIE-BITSIE BOUTIQUE IS LOCATED AT 1755 M. ADRIATICO ST., MALATE, MANILA; TEL. 522-8592



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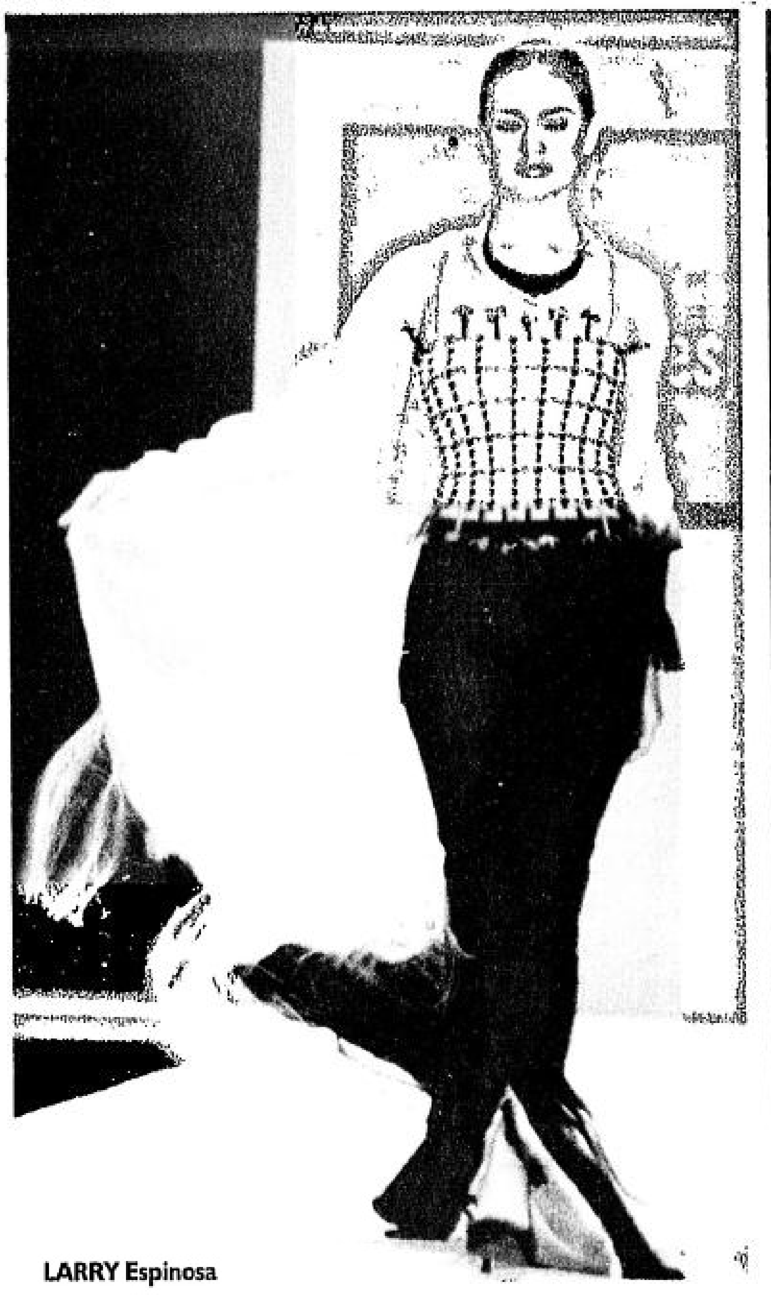
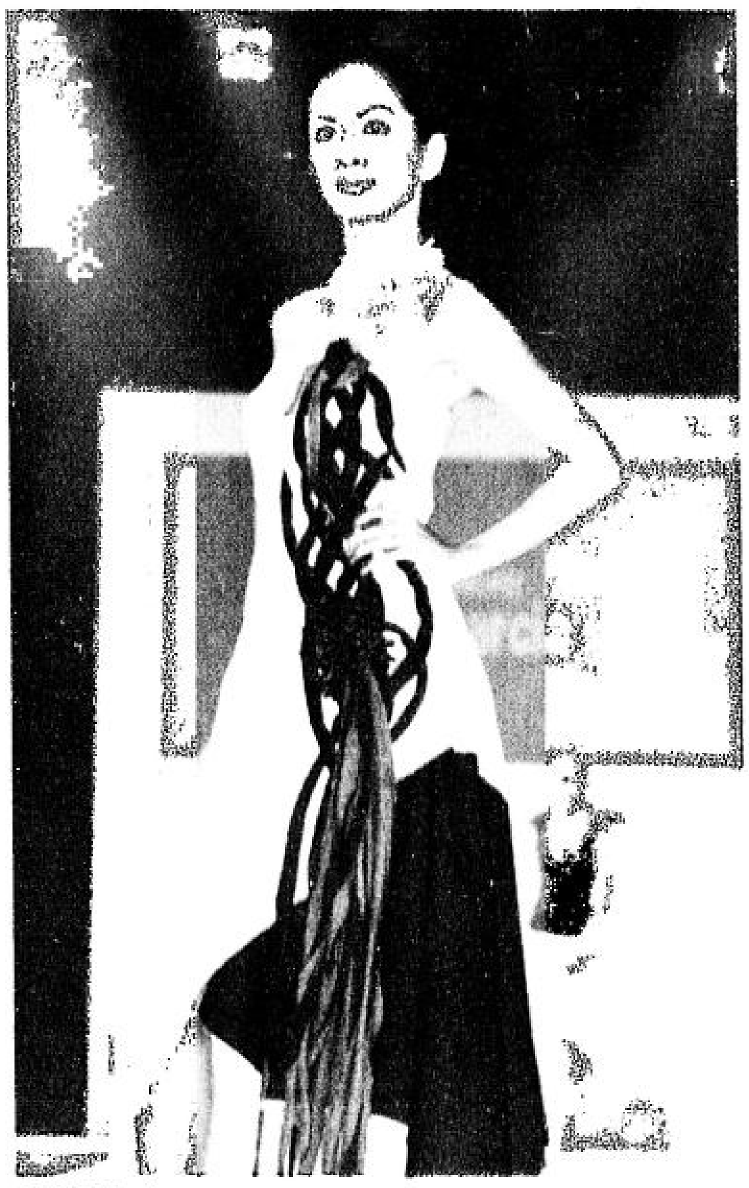


LARRY Espinosa

RAJO Laurel



BONG Garcia

Denim *forever*

The lowly 'maong' gets high-fashion treatment in the hands of local designers breaking out globally

From page C1

Tan-Gan was referring to the country's lack of affordable quality fabrics, a perennial complaint of local designers. Fashion designers, she added, need a steady supply of cheap, locally produced fabrics from dependable manufacturers for fashion to thrive and become a major industry.

"The country is a big producer of denim," she said. "So we agreed to work with it as early as two years ago."

Designers tapped Solid Mills and Litton Mills, two of the country's major denim producers, as sponsors. Unfortunately, Tan-Gan and Hong Kong-based RTW king Cesar Gaupo were unable to contribute to the collection on time.

Their colleagues, however, made up for their absence by coming up with deconstructed but generally wearable pieces. Gowns, dresses, trousers and tops made of denim were stonewashed, sandblasted, tie-dyed, woven, draped, layered, fringed, reversed, embroidered, beaded or paired with the most unlikely materials. Majority of the 23 participating designers showcased a maximum of four clothes.

Designer's idiom

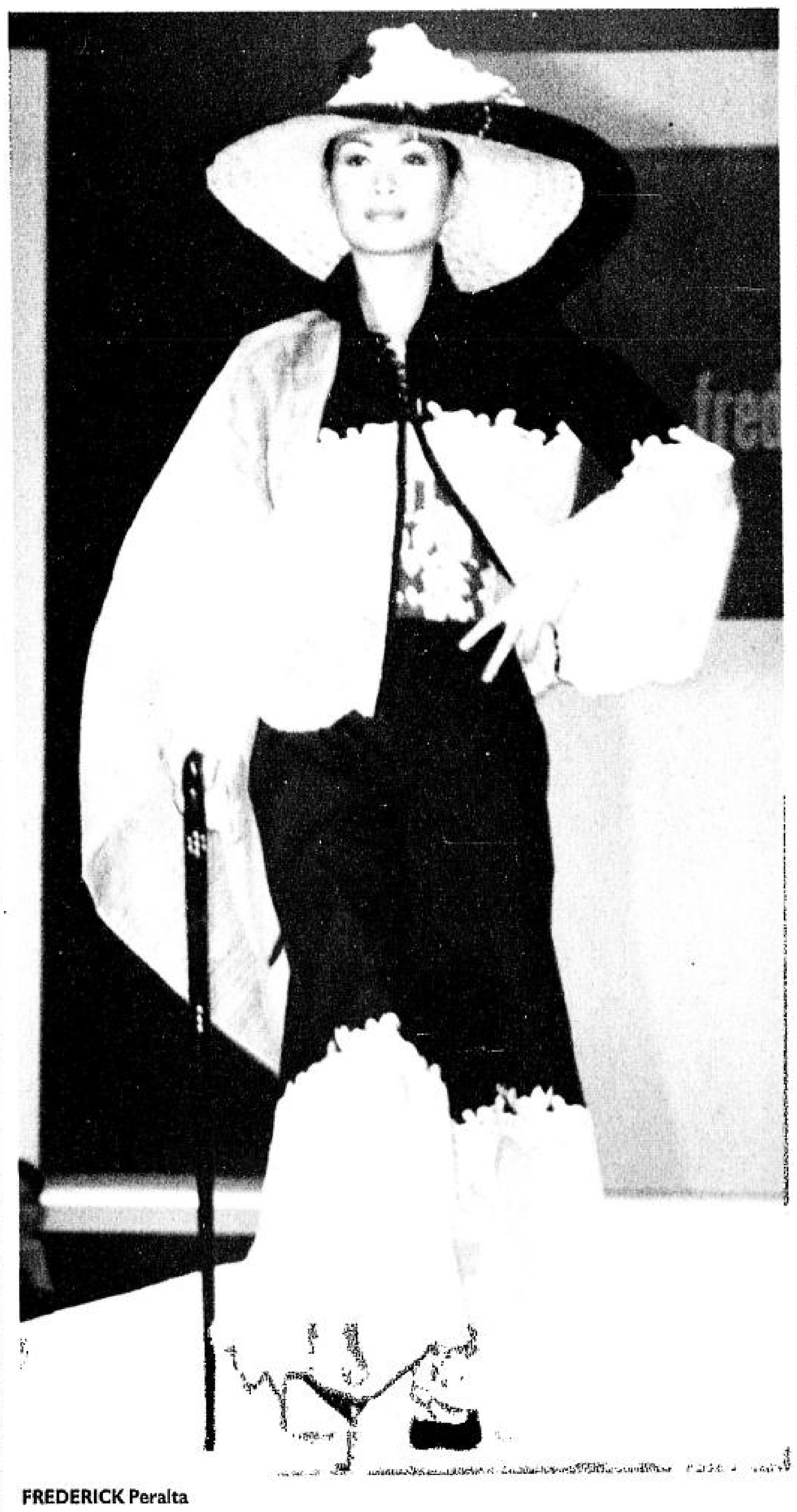
Despite the deconstruction, certain one-of-a-kind pieces only emphasized a particular designer's style.

Larry Espinosa's corsets, for instance, stressed his love for juxtaposition and attention to detail. He wove strips of denim and tied them together with twine fashioned from *piña* fibers, the same sheer material that draped the arms and shoulders of his female models.

By updating the embroidered *piña* and putting a millennial spin to turn-of-the-last-century silhouettes, Frederick Peralta came up with a denim collection that was decidedly eclectic and couture.

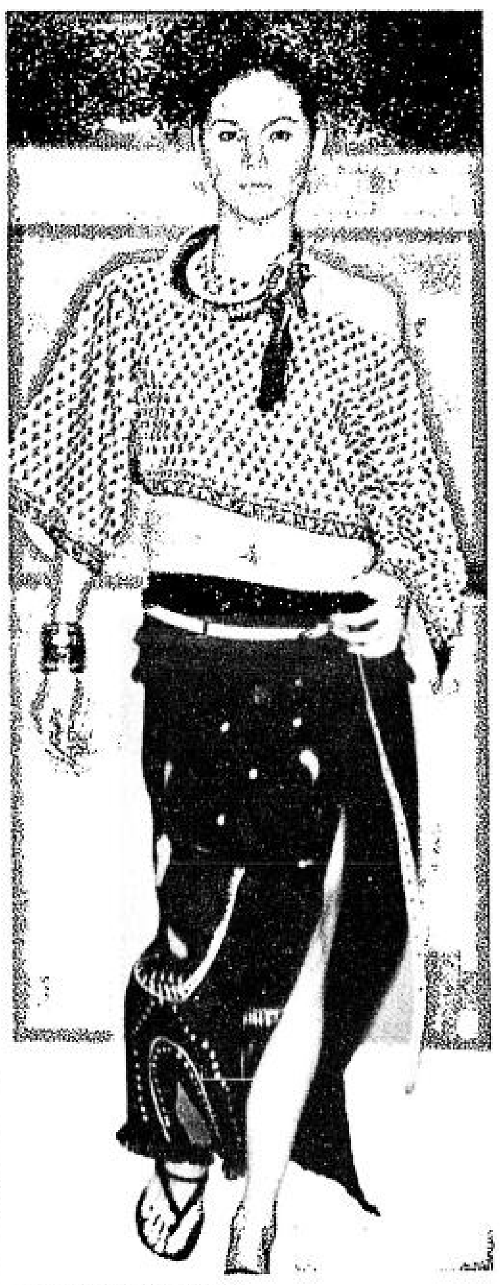
Danny de la Cuesta also worked at juxtaposition, combining ethnic inspiration and urban sensibility. He paired loose sari tops with fringed and embroidered sarongs made of true-blue denim. A pair of models even revealed what lay beneath: denim-inspired underwear complete with topstitching!

DENIM/ C5



FREDERICK Peralta

NONO Palmos



DANNY de la Cuesta

DONG Omaga-Diaz

RANDY Ortiz

The only items missing are denim-made designer socks

LEN Nepomuceno-Guiao

JOJI Lloren

Randy Ortiz made two denim-clad men—and not women—wear pastel-colored, hand-embroidered *jusi* tops with ribbons and rosettes. For added drama, he combined two shades of denim fabrics for the models' pants.

Some designers, like Rajo Laurel, debunked any lingering notion that denim is too rigid and rugged a material for gowns and dresses. If anything, Rajo's black denim collection with uneven hemlines and dramatic capes was masterfully wound, layered and draped.

Certain designers tried to venture out and came up with pieces totally removed from their established styles.

Nono Palmos, for instance, gave his beadwork a rest and came up with stretch denim swimwear that caught the audience by surprise (although every major fashion show wouldn't be complete without the temperature-raising swimsuit portion). The pieces, he insisted after the show, are lightweight and have been tested under water.

Young designer Dennis Lustico opted for simplicity by eschewing beads, tassels and embroidery in favor of fit, proportion and clean stitching.

Joji Lloren, another designer known for his clean, unfussy lines, combined two shades of denim fabric and sprinkled the bodice with hints of brown, ethnic-inspired beadwork. He also showed his expertise at draping in two other gowns.

Denim or no denim, the fashion show once again proved our designers' gift for improvising and their amazing ability to improve on established ways of doing clothes. Of course, we have yet to see them make designer denim socks, but give them time and they probably will.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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Made in the Philippines

From page C8

red, navy, white, black and khaki. Hip hooded jackets were predominant, as were stretch dark denims.

Undeniably one of the most popular brands and a trailblazer in local retail, Bench presented casual, young clothing for men and women. Female models donned hip, colorful tops matched with different shades of denim pants while male models wore an assortment of casual clothes such as nylon parkas, cotton hooded jackets, polo shirts and blue jeans. Also featured was the Bench underwear collection worn by shapely models in eye-popping tight jeans with open buttons and zippers. As a welcome contrast, Bench also showcased pretty floral skirts that are very fashionable this spring.

Thus far, Bench has aggressively branched out to China and the Middle East, proving that there is a world market for local brands.

Subtly sexy

Plains and Prints presented a subtly sexy and ultra-feminine line of clothing dominated by jersey tops, pants, skirts and dresses in bright red. Summery pedal pushers and gauzy white polo shirts and dresses were also aplenty.

. Image model Gretchen Barretto was in part responsible for creating an immediate brand recall for Plains and Prints. But an aggressive marketing scheme plus good quality products further guarantees its success. The company is now cautiously studying the international market in the hopes of eventually opening franchises in other parts of the world.

T Salvador may not be as popular or visible as the other brands featured in the show, but the collection of shawls, stoles and wraps that were showcased were just as good. Models wore the soft, diaphanous fabrics draped artfully or slung casually around their bodies. The products, which came in various colors like pale pink and celadon or lime green were fashioned into skirts, halters, ponchos, capes and the like.

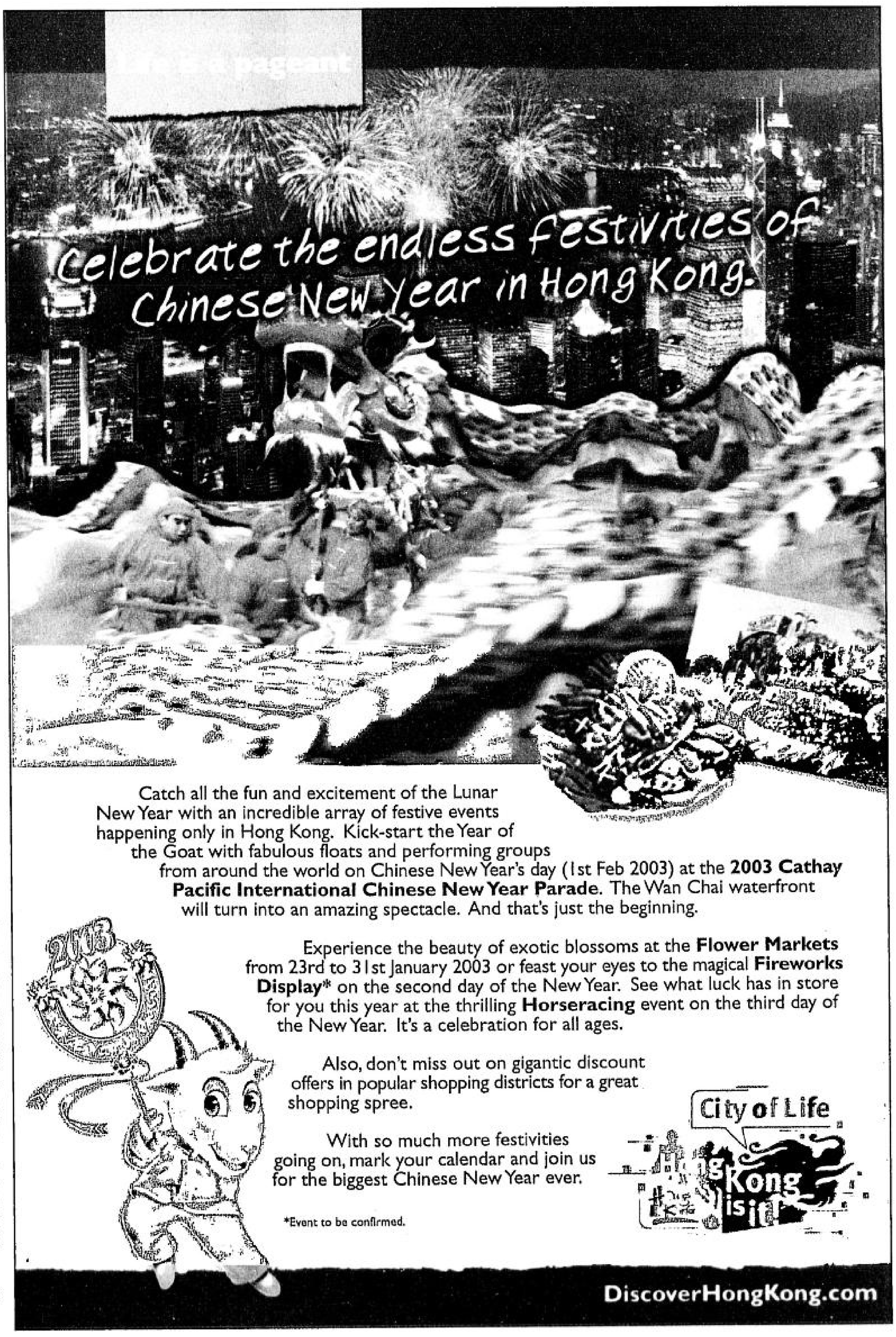
Finally, style-setter Sari-Sari took center stage to present a fun, ingenious, unique, sometimes tongue-in-cheek collection. A part of the collection had distinct Filipino touches. A denim long gown had butterfly sleeves made of the lowly but colorful *bayong* (market bag) while bustiers made of indigenous materials were interestingly matched with printed long skirts. Sari-Sari's highly creative team has always been known for introducing innovative concepts to the local market. And through it all, it has managed to retain a uniquely Filipino look and flavor. It has successfully opened a store in New York.

Most of the brands featured in the fashion show were possibly at par with their foreign counterparts. And as proven by the likes of Bench and Sari-Sari, there is room in the international market for well-developed local brands.

With the collaboration between the government and the private sector, it is hoped more deserving brands will get the exposure they need.

Email the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

BAYO



Celebrate the endless festivities of Chinese New Year in Hong Kong.

Catch all the fun and excitement of the Lunar New Year with an incredible array of festive events happening only in Hong Kong. Kick-start the Year of the Goat with fabulous floats and performing groups from around the world on Chinese New Year's day (1st Feb 2003) at the **2003 Cathay Pacific International Chinese New Year Parade**. The Wan Chai waterfront will turn into an amazing spectacle. And that's just the beginning.

Experience the beauty of exotic blossoms at the **Flower Markets** from 23rd to 31st January 2003 or feast your eyes to the magical **Fireworks Display*** on the second day of the New Year. See what luck has in store for you this year at the thrilling **Horseracing** event on the third day of the New Year. It's a celebration for all ages.

Also, don't miss out on gigantic discount offers in popular shopping districts for a great shopping spree.

With so much more festivities going on, mark your calendar and join us for the biggest Chinese New Year ever.

*Event to be confirmed.

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HONOREE Mely Hechanova with her husband Paing, her children Reena, Raffy, Raissa and Riana, their spouses and children. All the women and girls in the family are in emerald gowns by Inno Sotto.

THE AUTHOR (second from right) in Rajo Laurel with Marilen Concepcion in Versace, Vina Monasterio and Rica Araneta in Len Gujao, and Riana Trajano in Inno Sotto.

Emeralds and glitter

By Tessa Prieto Valdes

I GOT inside information that the color of choice for the 70th birthday party of Mely Hechenova was emerald green. So I looked quickly through my wardrobe to check if I had something in that color or something even close but, unfortunately, I didn't have anything in green. Clearly not a favorite color of mine. The closest would be something in a lime green shade but I decided to just come in a totally different color altogether.

Rajo Laurel, a dear friend and one of my favorite designers, came to the rescue again with an ensemble from his recent fashion show in Hong Kong. He described his gown as denim glam with its denim patchwork creating bold geometric patterns. I just added my usual feathery hat and accessories and off I went to the soiree.

Green glam

Needless to say, my husband Dennis and I arrived way past dinner time so all we had were the delicious fruit cake giveaways. As we entered, I saw my mother, **Marixi Prieto**, and Uncle **Cary Rufino** leaving, together with my relatives **Oscar** and **Connie Lopez**. I told them it was our generation's turn to party as **Rina Lopez Bautista** walked in with us.

Emerald green.was all over the gowns of all the Hechanova women. Mely told me she had purchased abroad 36 yards of fabric for the whole family and left it in the skillful hands of **Inno Sotto** to create elegant evening gowns. Inno had beaded the material with geometric patterns in selected areas and added outlines with diamond studs to give it that classy touch. Differently styled necklines were draped to give a variation to the gowns. Also noteworthy was the silk green tie of Paing, which made him part of the theme.

Equally radiant

Other guests were equally radiant. **Baby Fores** wore her signature black dress topped off with a beautiful brooch and her classic hair style. **Nory Ongsiako** looked very regal in her **Joe Salazar** gown. A standout also was **Edith Nakpil-Rabat** in a Muslim-inspired gown. Nicely contrasting with the green gowns were the red ones worn by **Vilma Valera**, **Meldy Cojuangco** and **Mellie Ablaza**. **Bea Concepcion Lebron** was the cutest-looking girl, wearing a floral printed dress with matching shawl and headband.

Beaded belles

Beaded tops with flowing skirts were the predominant style of the evening, all of which looked very elegant. A good example of this style was seen in the outfits of **Cory Alindogan** (which she bought at Lord &·Taylor, New York) and **Marivic A. Concepcion**.

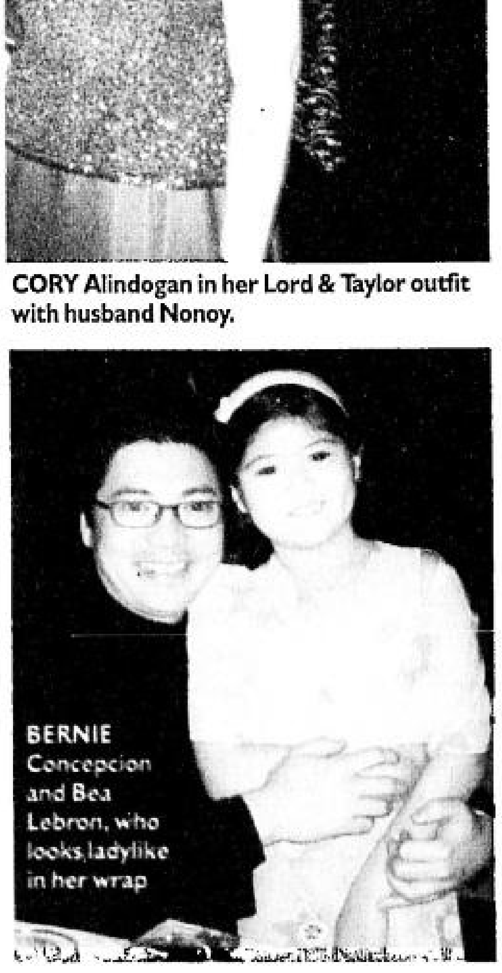
In my opinion, the most stylish guest that evening was **Menchu A. Concepcion** in a **Bobby Novenario** creation. The gown was an off-shoulder style, with beaded material in multi-layer lengths. A nice accent brooch was placed over her shoulder where an open sleeve was designed. Even her evening bag was a piece to commend. She carried her look so regally. Really, it's all a matter of attitude.

When I turn 70, I want to have my guests dress and party just like that evening of Mely's birthday. It shows how many friends you have and how well-loved you are.

Beaded tops with flowing skirts were the elegant look of the evening

BUDA Samson and Edith Rabat

CORY Alindogan in her Lord & Taylor outfit with husband Nonoy.



BERNIE Concepcion and Bea Lebron, who looks ladylike in her wrap

MOST STYLISH. Menchu Concepcion in Bobby Novenario

ED Mijares, Mary De Leon, Mely, Therese Dabao and Tessie Escaler

GLOWING IN RED. (Clockwise) Mellie Ablaza, Vilma Valera, Zita Feliciano and Imelda Cojuangco. That's the celebrant dazzling in emeralds, both the color and the stone.

BABY Fores and Nene Quimson

MARIE Young in Len Guiao, Marivic Concepcion in beaded top and Raissa Posadas in Inno Sotto.

Update on Samar cancer healer

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

This is in relation to my published letter and succeeding e-mails and telephone conversations with Nanay, who treats breast cancer patients using herbal leaves.

Many who read your column got in touch with me and one lady requested me to accompany her to Samar. Last Dec. 26 we (the patient, her husband and her maid) took a Cebu Pacific flight to Tacloban and got there at 3 p.m. We hired a van to Balangiga and arrived at dusk. We went directly to a lodging inn.

The treatment started on Dec. 27 and lasted until Dec. 30. We are back in Manila and the treatment continues.

The leaves are washed thoroughly and pounded until they are reduced to small bits. These are wrapped in banana leaves and put over the stove to heat. While hot, the mixture is wrapped in a piece of clean cloth and applied over the affected area.

I have not called up the others who want to see Nanay because the leaves we brought are running out. May this letter, therefore, serve as a request for those people who can give us a steady supply of these leaves so Nanay can continue helping those with breast cancer.

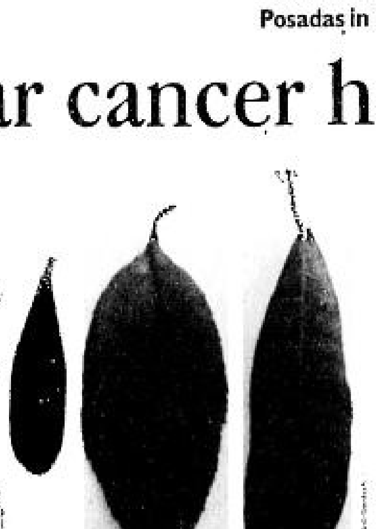
BABY PASCUA

Thank you for updating us on the herbal treatment. The leaves, called *sudo-sudo*, *tigaw* and *kalipayan* in Waray, can surely be found all over the Philippines. I hope the Bureau of Plant Industry in Samar can give information on their scientific names, as well as their names in Tagalog.

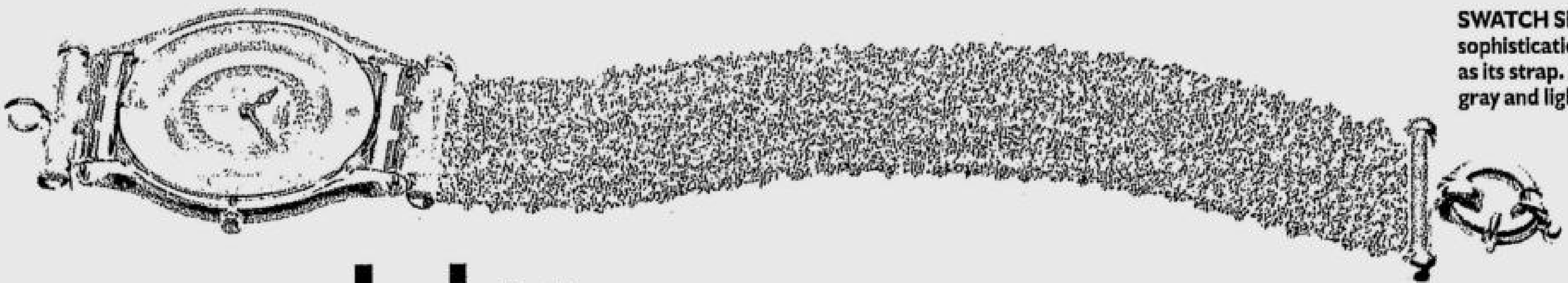
To answer readers who missed the column that mentioned Nanay's name and address, she is Hilaria Carilla. Address: Dr. F. Duran St., Bgy. 6, Balangiga, Eastern Samar. When in Balangiga, ask tricycle drivers where she lives. Baby Pascua, meanwhile, resides at 62 P. Paterno St., Parang, Marikina City. Or call 475-2075.

At this writing, Ms Carilla is still in Marikina, but will be going to Samar on Jan. 19. She started her healing after having dreams of her grandparents telling her what to do. At first she ignored them, but she decided to obey the messages.

Those in the Visayas can go to her, and since Samar is too far away from Metro Manila, may I suggest the Mother Ignacia Healing Center of Sister Racquel of RVM Congregation, in Bagunbong, Caloocan City. The place used to be hard to locate, but after ex-President Estrada went there with a big crowd, there should be no difficulty getting there.

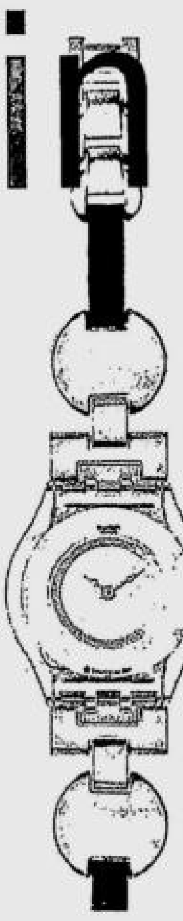


SUDO-SUDO, tigaw and kalipayan



SWATCH Skin Essentiality—the sophistication of crumpled silver as its strap. Available in charcoal gray and light gold dials.

Show Skin and turn heads



DISCOVER the exciting new Swatch Skin collection.

Each timepiece has unique qualities that will turn heads wherever you go. The sensual bracelet of crumpled silver speaks of casual elegance. Delicate hourmarkers are set against an opulent backdrop of charcoal gray and light gold.

The incredibly light Attractiveness has a metal bracelet that gives it a very prominent look. The dark-blue dial with Arabic numbers is highlighted by sky-blue crystal stones that outline the bracelet.

Nothing is delicate with the ultra-thin Delicacy. Gold rings, connected by light-chocolate leather straps, make up the bracelet.

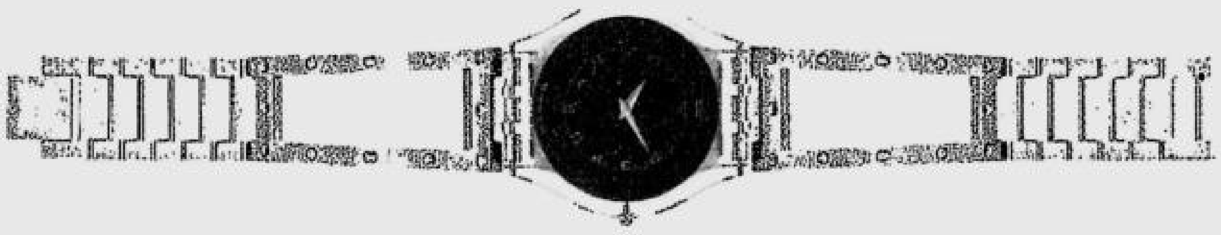
Speedway's rich black rubber strap gives it an urbane industrial look—clean and polished. The dial stands out with red encircling the black face and light-gray skeleton hands showing the time.

An exciting mix of fabrics are featured in Actual Spirit and Dressed in Jeans. Aside from a beige textile strap, Actual Spirit has a dial surrounded by a classic green color and with numbers in multiples of five, making it easier to tell time.

Denim returns this season in Dressed in Jeans. The sophisticated cotton-denim strap is complemented by the metallic silver dial for a classic appeal.

Swatch Skin is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc. Swatch is available at all Gift Gate, Swatch Stores and kiosks nationwide.

RUGGEDLY classic—Swatch Skin Speedway



(EXTREME left) Swatch Skin Dressed in Jeans has the classic charm of denim—it goes with everything; (at left) gold is in with Swatch Skin Delicacy; (above) nothing can be more attractive than the Swatch Skin Attractiveness.

Rockwell holds big clearance sale

THE POWER Plant Mall at Rockwell is holding a big clearance sale until Jan. 19, with discounts up to as much as 80 percent.

Called the "Biggest Brands for Peanuts," the sale covers such top brands as Lacoste, Bally, Ck Underwear, Marks & Spencer, Cole Haan, GH Bass, Mango, Tyler, and Sari-Sari.

Also ongoing is the second Lifestyle Fair. Participating stores include Home & Beyond, The Castle, Old Asia, Restoration, Area, Wind and Water, Play & Display, Unica, and Great Options. The sale is at the North Court and South Court, with discounts from 10 to 70 percent.

Complementing the mall sale is a line-up of activities in the restaurants on Lopez Drive. Tonight is Acoustic Night, featuring Blue Note Funk. Tomorrow, a guest DJ will play at Mati. On Sunday is al fresco dining.

Registration for acting workshop ongoing

ACT Now! is encouraging people to live their dreams now by participating in its workshops that aim to reveal hidden talents.

Ten sessions will be held on intensive acting/spontaneity exercises.

Act Now! is located at Industry Lounge, 1362 Filmore St., Makati City (same street as Cash and Carry). Fee is P4,000 for early registrants.

Schedule is as follows: schedule A: from Jan. 25 (1-4 p.m., Saturdays); schedule B: Tuesdays/Thursdays (contact Mish).

The Act Now! team is composed of Jourdan Da Dreamer, Mish The Oracle, Maan the Dreamscape Architect, and Mike the Dream Catcher.

Call Mish at 892-3986 or (0917) 531-7957.

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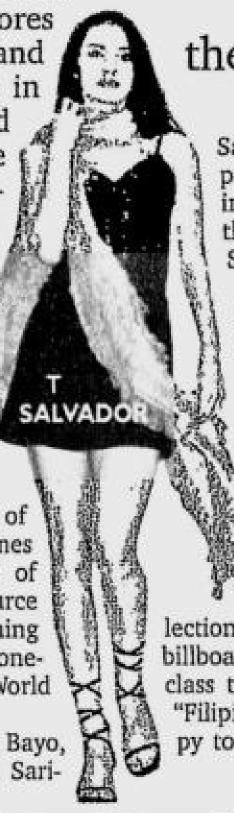
Made in the Philippines

T SALVADOR

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Top retail brands show their ware in a bid for the export market

IF YOU'VE had the chance to shop in other parts of the world, you might have noticed that most of the articles of clothing you've bought from stores like Gap, Old Navy, Marks and Spencer's have been made in Asia. The labels might read "made in Thailand," "made in China," "made in Indonesia" and also "made in the Philippines." Unknown to many, the Asian region is a major market representing more than half of the world exports in clothing and textile.



Apparel show

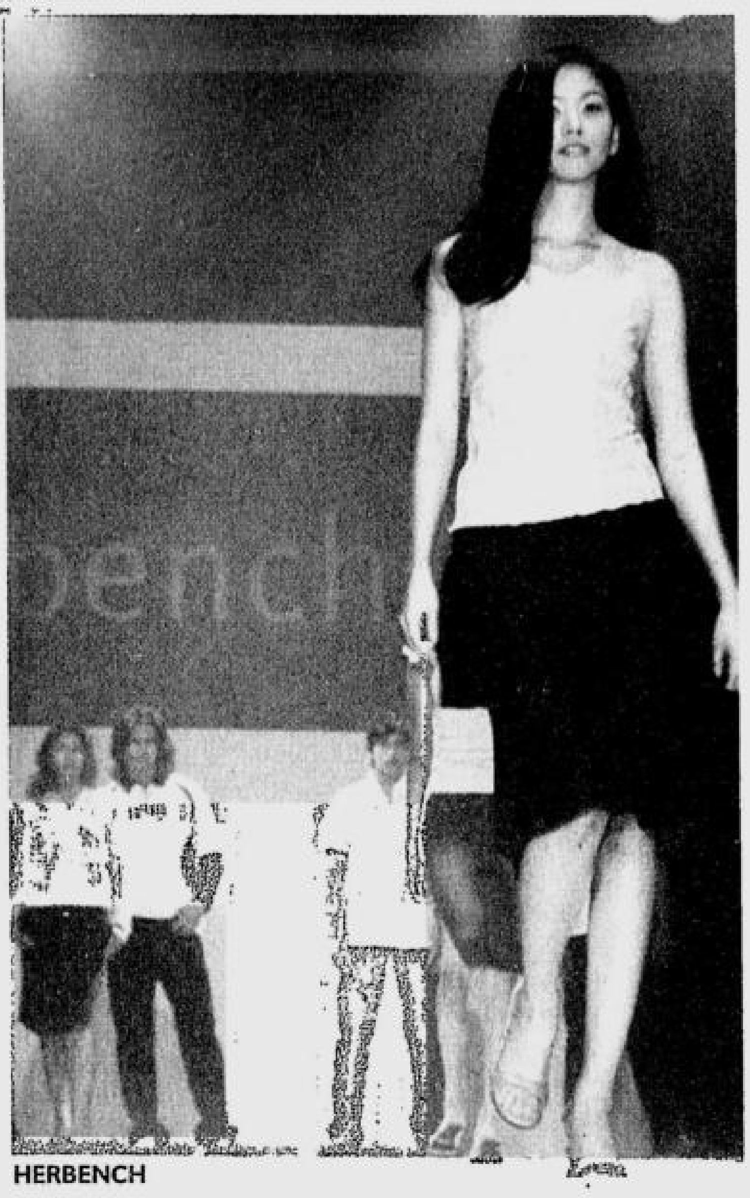
Realizing this, the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines (CONGEP) and the Department of Trade and Industry organized Source It, the first-ever integrated clothing and textile fair that aimed to be a one-stop apparel industry event at the World Trade Center in Manila.

Top retail brands such as Bench, Bayo, Plains and Prints, T Salvador and Sari showed their support by participating in the trade fair and presenting collections in a fashion show entitled "The Philippine Retailers Buyers Show 2003."

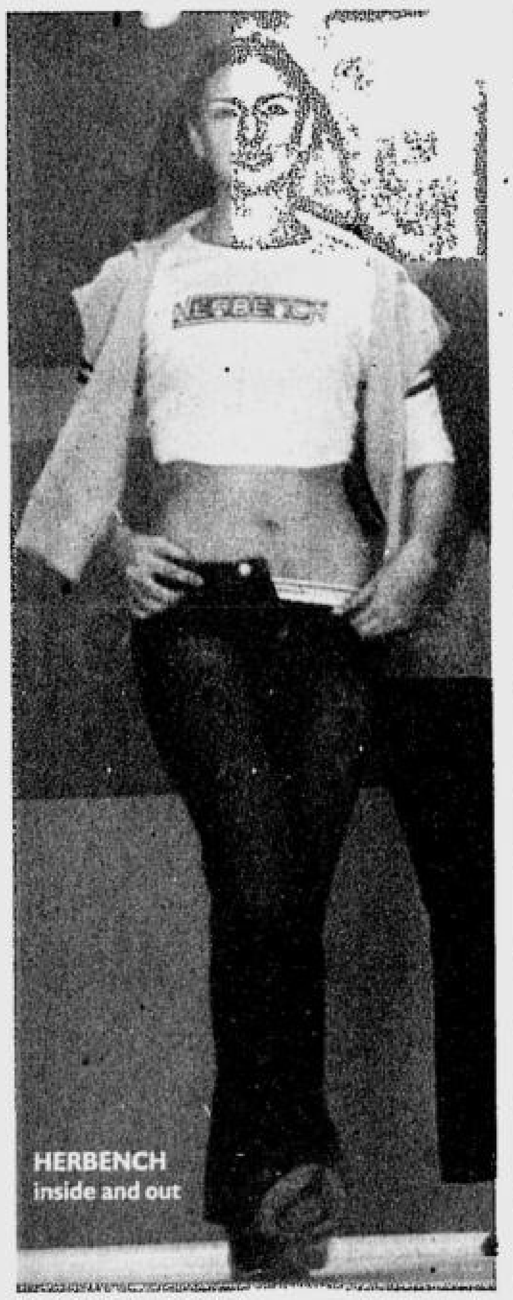
The show reinforced what our country, although beset with seemingly insurmountable problems such as a rising crime rate, protracted economic crisis and tiresome political infighting, has to offer in terms of vision, creativity and ingenuity.

Directed by Jackie C. Aquino and participated in by Manila's top models, the fashion show opened with a collection from Bayo. Known for its ads and billboards featuring home-grown world-class talent Lea Salonga and its tag line "Filipino and Proud," Bayo featured preppy to sporty apparel in solid colors like

MADE/ C5



HERBENCH



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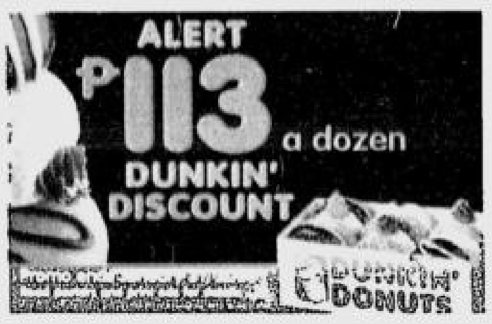
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ADVICE FROM 5 TRENDSPOTTERS

How to get out of a style rut

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I'M STUCK in a style rut! I've been wearing the same kind of clothes for more than five years now (mostly suits and pumps during weekdays and polo shirts with khakis and loafers on weekends). I really want to update my boring wardrobe by buying a few items that are "in" this season. Can you suggest at least five pieces I can buy and where I can find them?

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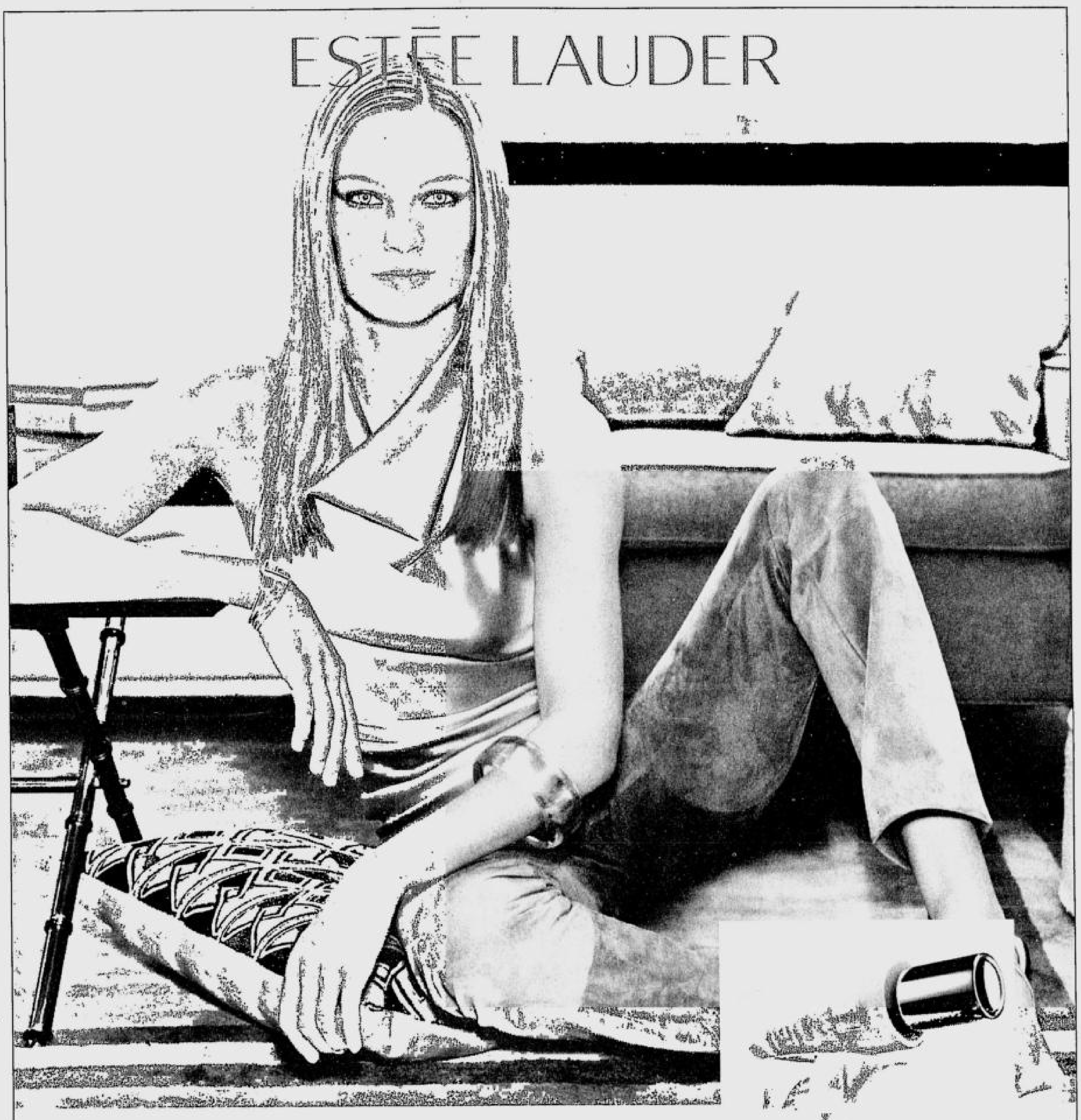
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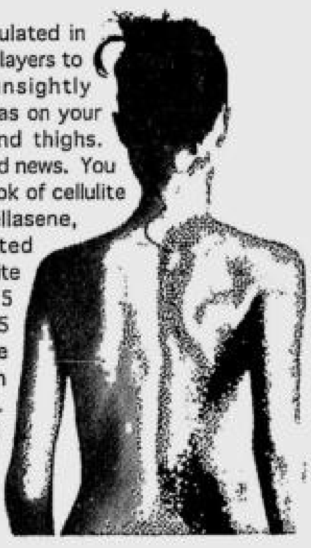
Per DTI-NCR Permit # 4986 Series of 2002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The naked truth!

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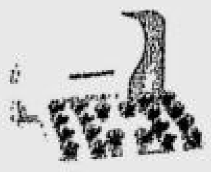
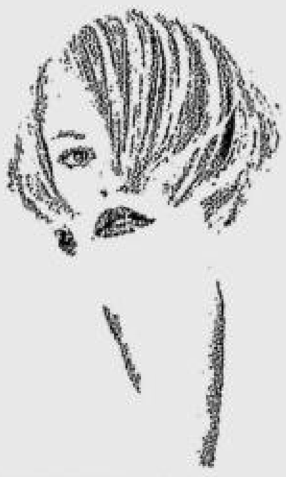


Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 6885

HAIR designs by Hugo Ratzel of Headmasters London



THE WHITE Collection

RATZEL'S avant-garde hair creation

Award-winning Brit hairstyling team to conduct training

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

MANY readers complain that I don't write enough about hair. Frankly, it is not really my forté, so I don't want to give you mediocre information.

Once in a great while though, I receive inside information (photos included) about hairstyle and color forecast, as well as about some big shot foreign hairdresser abroad who will be sharing his knowledge of latest techniques with Filipino colleagues.

L'Oreal Professionel starts the new year by helping advance Filipino hairdressers' skills through an exclusive class on advanced hair color and haircutting techniques to be conducted by the artistic team of the United Kingdom's Headmasters. The three by-invitation-only sessions will be held Jan. 27-29 at Zillion, 3/L, Robinsons Galleria.

The classes will be offered to L'Oreal-trained expert colorists and senior hairdressers with advanced knowledge and experience in cutting. The morning session will have a Look and Learn format. A fee of P350/head will be charged for demonstrations by the Headmasters' artistic team. In the afternoon session, the team will conduct a hands-on workshop for a fee of P2,000.

Young and dynamic

Headmasters is a young, dynamic hairdressing group with 10 salons in London and southeast England. It is known for superb cutting, innovative color and excellent customer care. The chain's artistic team won the London Hairdresser of the Year award in 2000 and 2001, and was an Avant Garde finalist in the British hairdressing awards in 2001 and 2002. Headmasters also received the Salon Design of the Year award in 2000 and 2001.

The chain's artistic team is led by group creative director Tim Binnington. Artistic director is Hugo Ratzel. Headmasters was launched in 1998 and, in the same year, it won the L'Oreal Color Trophy award in London.

Since then, members of the team have been included in L'Oreal's Portfolio of Artistic Hairdressers and in the Fellowship for British Hairdressing FAME team. They regularly produce photographic collections, which are widely publicized within the UK and abroad. The team also appears regularly in shows and exhibitions.

Inspirational

L'Oreal Professionel aims to inspire local hairdressers to strive for excellence and success in the salon business.

All hairstyles shown in the photos here are by Hugo Ratzel. The White collection is the 2003 hairstyle forecast for men and women. Hair has subtle coloring and there are styles for short, medium and long hair that are Wearable for everyday and for any lifestyle. Four styles for women and two for men. My personal favorite is "Lucy," with the curvy, long auburn hair.

The Avant Garde is pure fantasy, inspired by fairy tales and Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Hugo shows how hair can be a work of art. Suitable for the daring and incurably romantic. Perfect personality: Tessa Prieto-Valdes.

Hugo displays coloring prowess in his hair designs. For those who want a new look but don't want a drastic haircut, shades of royal blue and purple are streaked on hair and styled to show off the colors to full advantage. Perfect for clubbing and party nights.

HSBC RED MasterCardholders Arlyn Gonzales, Edna Fueconcillo, Melissa Redito, Ainie Gonzales and Julie Azares (represented by aunt, Merly Pasion) got the thrill of their lives recently with each spending P100,000 on shoes in participating stores in Glorietta and Power Plant malls. The women won the amount as shopping credits to spend in one day courtesy of the first credit card for women, HSBC RED MasterCard. They brought home over 300 pairs of shoes, many of which were sports shoes from Nike, Fusion, Planet Sports and Athletes Foot for spouses, teenage children and *inaanak*. Participating stores included CMG, Woman, Celine and Ohrelle.

New hairstyles for 2003

HAIRBYTES introduces rebonded/wave, a style that would defy the laws of hairstyling.

Part-owner and stylist Meldy Miram said the new style, seen on the streets of New York and Tokyo, would blend straight with curls. The style puts waves over flat hair. Complemented by strategic cuts, it leaves the hair with more body and dimension at any length.

Hairbytes was the first to apply the Hair Rebonding technology in the country.

This year, the curls also get a different depth with Hairbytes' Electric Perm, which lessens the unpredictable outcome of ordinary perming. The application balanced heat results in consistent curls.

Miram said the new hairstyles were complemented by newer trends in coloring.

To help the scalp, which is bound to be strained by the new procedures, Hairbytes offers the High Frequency Scalp Therapy, which Miram said was like a workout for the scalp.

Dandruff and other scalp irritations, often caused by stress, would be avoided with the High Frequency Scalp Therapy.

Hairbytes pioneered the modern salons with stylish leather seats, top-of-the-line hairstyling technology, convenient and classy locations and award-winning stylists. Miram herself won the grand prize in the L'Oreal Color Trophy last year.

FASHION forward hair forecast by Hairbytes

In the last few months, we saw the rise of technology, which birthed to soft, jagged and straight locks.

For more high-fashion hairstyling and care, visit Hairbytes at Alabang, Forbes, Gamboa, Greenhills, Podium, Shangri-La and its newest transfer branch at the Eastwood City Libis.

Great sale on Italian fashion items

LINEA Italia Group is holding the last and final Italian Fashion Flood, which began on Jan. 4.

There are selections from Versace Classic, Versace Jeans Couture, Dolce & Gabbana, Gianfranco Ferre and Max Mara. There are also items from Mariella Burani, Trussardi, Robert Guiducci, Dream, Castellani, Altra Moda, Navajos, David Mayer and Marco Gabriellini, among others.

The wide selection is just the icing on the cake, though. The prices? A 30-60 percent discount is offered on all the items you can find in all LIG regular stores.

Visit Linea Italia 6750, Linea Italia, Prima Linea, Viva, Linea Uomo and Uomo Tu in Metro Manila and Metro Cebu.

Easy elegance

CROSSINGS Department Store features dresses and coordinates that are easy to wear and evoke a warm, feminine appeal. The one-stop shopping haven's suggested brand? Animale, a sophisticated yet fun-packed label from Bali, Indonesia.

The Animale apparel line includes blouses, dresses, skirts and pants designed in rich, versatile combinations.

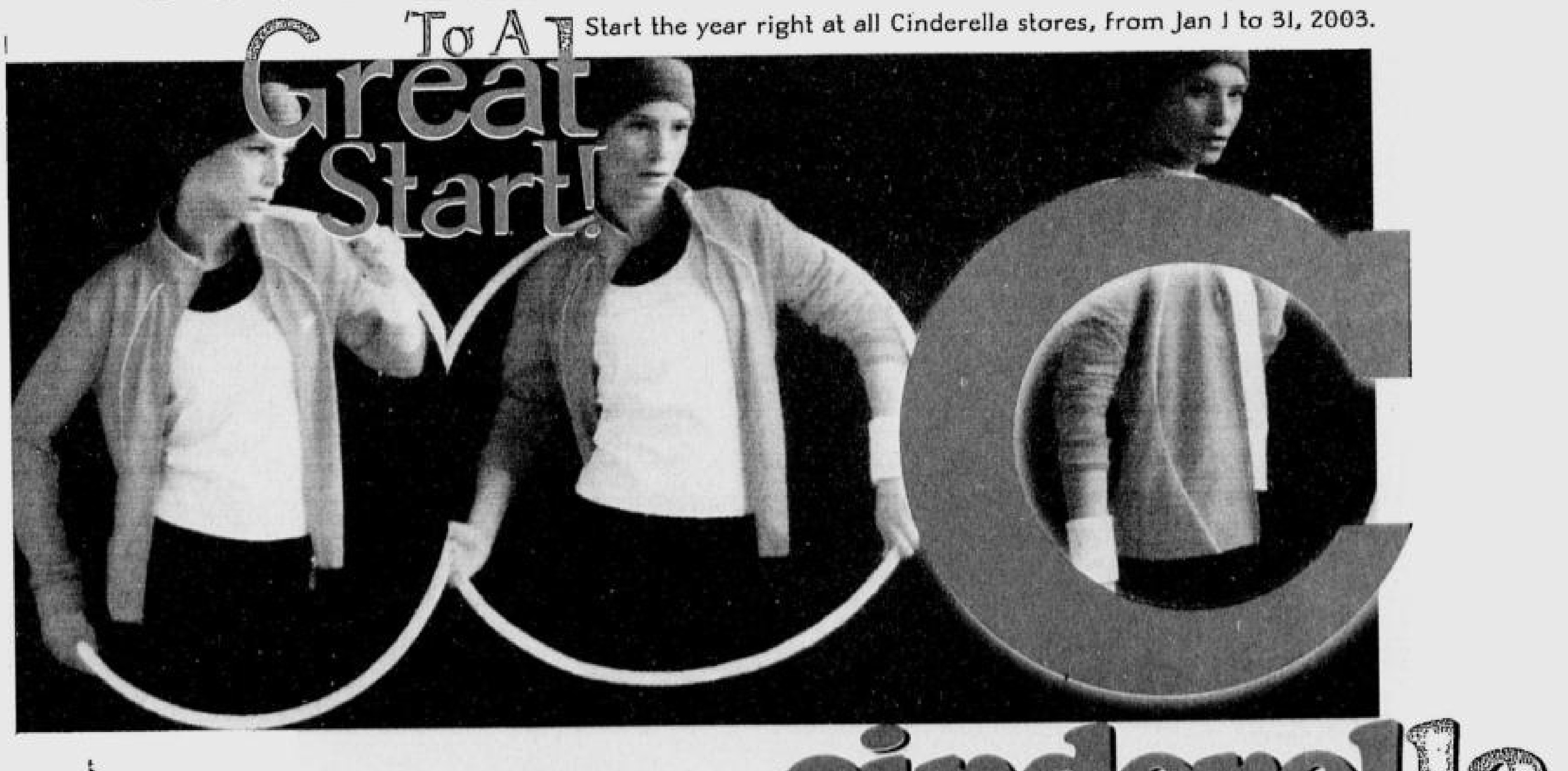
Check out the apparel line at the Fashion Pavilion of Crossings Department Store, at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City, and now with branches on Rizal Avenue, Manila, and Quezon Avenue, QC.

COTTON dress with botanical prints

Chic and sexy

PARFAIT clothes are chic, sexy and cozy with Asian-inspired tops and embroidery details on casual dresses, pants and skirts. Skin-tight denim trousers showcase one's curves. Denim jackets with interesting stitch detail complete the look.

Parfait boutiques are located at SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, Filinvest Alabang, Outlet Yard in Quezon City, and SM Iloilo. Parfait outlets are also located at Cinderella Stores in SM Megamall, Target and Robinsons Imus.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To A Great Start!
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cinderella
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5168, Series of 2002

How to get out of a style rut

Manila's most stylish women give tips on getting out of the fashion limbo

From page D1

ing the same things over and over again, but if you are unhappy about it and want a change, then go for it! You must have forgotten that fashion can be fun and exciting. I'm so glad that you are finally open to trying new things and creating fresh new looks for you.

To help you out, I've asked some of Manila's most stylish women who have undeniable flair and a passion for fashion, to give suggestions. They immediately asked for your personal profile in order to give advice that would suit your lifestyle, but since you didn't provide any backgrounder, I asked them to present their ideas just the same.

We leave it up to you to follow what you feel will suit your personality and style. Enjoy!

Pauline Suaco, editor in chief, Preview Magazine

1. Give your pumps a rest. Buy a pair of wedge heels, preferably with a woven design like those Mandy Moore has on in her Penshoppe billboard on Guadalupe. Cardams and Confetti (both in Megamall) carry similar versions and they will look really cool with your pantsuits during the week or with a denim skirt on weekends.

2. The mini is back. Shorter is better as long as you keep it as weekend wear. Check out the minis at Linea Italia. Diesel carries a super short denim, too. Wear it with a blazer or jacket and high heels during off hours.

3. Ice cream colors are fun to wear, especially in summer. And they look smashing when paired with your wardrobe basics. Get yourself a pistachio green shirt and wear it with your jeans. Butter yellow or strawberry pink will instantly update your khakis.

PAULINE Suaco

4. Designers are still crazy over the Orient. A pair of cloisonné earrings will bring an oriental flair to your outfit. The bazaars last December were brimming with cloisonné earrings. Firma also sells them. Or go through your mom or *lola*'s old stuff and hunt for a cloisonné necklace (preferably with fringe). Anyone who went to Hong Kong or China in the '70s and '80s brought these home as *pasalubong*.

5. Go for gold. Silver and white gold look so '90s. Since we've gone the opposite direction of minimalism, gold jewelry—the more intricate and elaborate, the better—looks right. Bury the little diamond dot and plain studs at the back of your closet. Go for colored stones, drop earrings, layer gold chains around your neck, or get hold of a charm bracelet (the gold link bracelet with enamel charms at La Elegancia and K jr. jewelry are cute and cartoony). It's in the same vibe as what Vogue calls "the single most talked about accessory of the season." Japanese art star Takashi Murakami's designs uses *poku* (a mix of Pop (*po*) and *otaku* (*ku*), the animation- and comic-driven Japanese youth culture) to give a new twist to Louis Vuitton's trademark monogram.

Leica Carpo, public relations manager, L'Oreal Philippines

1. A colorful, sheer, lightweight knit top from Lulu Tan Gan (SM Megamall). Try the cotton candy-colored batwing sleeved top (one size fits all) and wear it with a darker inner tube in the same shade.

2. A white or camel-colored mini skirt (preferably in cord or denim) for the weekend. Try Guess, U at Rustan's, Tabu, Itsie-Bitsie and Mango. Goes great with anything and it's the best way to show off a summer tan.

3. Those suits would look great with a racy/ lacy and sheer inner camisole from Natori (Rustan's) or silk printed lace camisoles from Paul Smith (Glorietta 4 or Shangri-la Plaza) or Topshop (Shangri-La Plaza or Robinsons mall).

4. Low-waisted cargo pants as an option to khaki pants. You can find these at Paul Smith, Tyler, Rustan's or DKNY. You may also try pedal pushers (wide to slim cut), which are very casual and feminine.

5. As an option to loafers, try something flat and pretty like thongs from T at G3 or ballet flats from Regatta at G3. Also try feminine and flirty flats from Kate Spade.

LEICA Carpo

Jo Ann Bitagcol, top fashion model

1. Anything from the Paul Smith "Swirly" collection. Invest in either a bag, a pair of shoes, belt, scarf or shirt with fun, colorful and fashionable signature print. Use the collection as a breaker or accent for all your existing outfits.

2. Flat thong sandals are classic choices that you can wear with different attires. Choose a dressy, casual or sporty pair, depending on your needs. You can find them in most shoe stores like Janylin and T.

3. For comfort and style, feminine ballet flats are a must. Wear them with capris or pedal pushers for a cool weekend look. They are available in Rustan's Department Store and Regatta.

4. A plain white man's *sando* (inner shirt) is also perfect for dressed-down weekends. Wear it with jeans, capris, cargo pants and even tiered cotton skirts.

5. If all else fails, why not go for a hairstyle-and-makeup makeover? Change your cosmetic palette so you can look fresh and different. Have your hair styled for a totally new you.

Hindy W. Tantoco, RTW designer, U at Rustan's

Changing one's "look" is one of life's little pleasures. It's a really exciting process that can go sour if not done with great care and just the right amount of flair. Here are some key pieces to get you on your way to the "new you."

1. For work, use low-waist, wide-leg pinstripe trousers or an asymmetrical fluid skirt in suiting fabric. Match these with a lace-trimmed camisole or striking tube top to wear under your coat or cardigan. Or try a spiffy vest to wear over your work shirts or a nice trenchcoat versus a coat jacket

2. Also for work, try drop-dead pumps or sexy sandals in contrasting colors such as red heels matched with a black, gray or khaki ensemble. Or try men's-style Oxford shoes, which look great with pinstripe trousers and a slim feminine top.

3. Accessorize with a silk scarf with a nice bright print to liven up your suit. You may wear your scarf as a necktie or a belt or just tied on your bag. You can even use it as a top if it's big enough.

4. For weekends, you can wear cargo pants (cropped, drawstring hem, vintage look), jeans in one of the new distressed washes or a long (shin-length) peasant tiered skirt.

5. A flirty vintage-style blouse with beadwork, embroidery or lace trim works well with cargos or jeans. A very slim polo shirt knotted at the hem looks good with the skirt or the jeans. Sporty striped jersey tops are perfect with jeans while simple halter or tube tops with embroidery or print works with all the above bottoms.

6. Beaded ethnic slides and funky retro sneakers are fun alternatives to your loafers.

7. A wide-brimmed raffia hat, a crafty knit scarf to throw on with everything, and a colorful or embellished belt are funky weekend accessories.

If these don't satisfy you or if you're not ready for a drastic change, then alter the fit of your clothes. Get slimmer suits or coats with shirred shoulders, a nice pencil cut skirt in an unusual length (like 2" below the knee), a polo with a concise cut, khakis with a low waist, or loafers in a bright surprising color like lime or red.

And do what always works: a great new haircut!

JO Ann Bitagcol

ANGEL Jacob

Angel Jacob, model and public relations and marketing manager, M)Phosis boutique

1. For the office, instead of the usual conservative suit, try wearing striped or floral polo shirts (long-sleeved or 3/4-sleeved), which you can buy from M)phosis, Paul Smith, Bayo, Wink, flea markets or the men's department of any department store. If you absolutely have to wear a suit, then wear the shirt underneath to add a bit of color and style. Do not button your top all the way up for a sexy look and wear stilettos or at least 2" heels to help improve your posture.

2. You can also wear a colored or lacy camisole with your suits. You can get them from Marks and Spencer or Her Bench.

3. Always accessorize. If you are using a man's shirt, use feminine accessories like pearl strands or studs. If you want to go floral, wear cufflinks or a man's watch. Creating contrasts will make you look more interesting.

4. Slim-cut jeans from M)phosis, Levi's and Human can take the place of your khakis. Mix it with a colored tank top from Bench Body and wear a hooded jacket from sports stores or flea markets or a bomber jacket from M)phosis, Wink, Human and Milkwear. Accessorize with a messenger bag from Human.

5. Instead of loafers, wear funky rubber shoes, which you can find at Nike, Puma or Adidas. They are perfect for afternoon walks in the mall.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Model-photographer's first solo show

GOINGS ON

MODEL, writer and photographer Joanne Zapanta-Andrada holds her first solo photo exhibit, "In Repose," at the Epson Gallery, 3/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. A member of the committee on culture of the National Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), Zapanta-Andrada's images depict the "quieter, lighter side of life."

WORKSHOP. Sinag Arts Foundation will conduct a Safety and First Aid Workshop for theater crew doing rigging, electrical and installation work Jan. 27-31. The Japanese Language Tutorial will be at 4:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 20 and 27. The Sinag Arts Studio is at 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. Call 531-3491 or fax 531-9524.

ALUMNI MAGAZINE. The Araullo High School Class 1958 is asking AHS '58 alumni for updates on addresses and other contact information for inclusion in the Sapphire Jubilee souvenir magazine to be released during the school's grand alumni homecoming at the AHS campus on Taft Avenue, Manila, on Feb. 15, and at the "AHSAA58 Double45" celebration at the Makati Park & Garden on Feb. 22. Call Sonia D. de Dios, AHSAA58 president, at 563-0157, fax 563-7293, or executive committee members Sol Concepcion (tel. 564-0989 or [0919] 799-4421), Zeny P. Jimenez (563-5453), Poying Villanueva (942-2049), Romy Carlos (824-9622), Lourdes Bondoc-Moya (936-9109), Tess Faraon-Gamutan (564-8668), Jack Ulanday (807-4282), Gerry Buenaventura (400-4988) and Satur Filipino (373-7371).

RETREAT. A retreat on Deepening Centering Prayer is being held today until Jan. 19 at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House in Tagaytay City. The retreat, sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Philippines, is open to those who have been practicing Lectio Divine and Centering Prayer for at least six months. Call 632-3644/3478, 633 6115, 842-4030 or 843-8292.

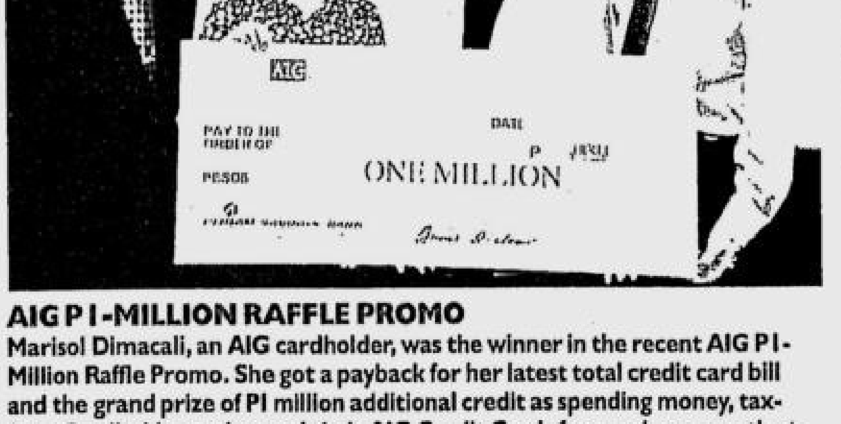
FIESTA FAIR. The first-ever fiesta fair, "Festival of Festivals," is ongoing until Feb. 2 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. The festival includes an exhibit of Sto. Niño images. On sale are furniture and furnishings, fine jewelry, leather goods, RTW, arts and crafts, collectibles, novelties, giveaways, food and fruits. Call 826-8162 or 820-3862.

REUNION. The Santos-Villalon-Teodoro clan of Marikina City will hold its first grand reunion at 3 p.m. on Feb. 15 at the Commissioned Officers' Club, Camp Aguinaldo, QC. Call Lilia Tuazon at 807-1851.

YOUTH CONGRESS. The 5th National Social Science Congress on the Filipino Youth will be held May 15-17, at the Philippine Social Science Council Center, Commonwealth Avenue, QC.Registration is ongoing. PSSC is offering early-bird rates of P1,500/person until Apr. 15, inclusive of conference materials, meals and free access to all sessions. Call PSSC at 929-2671 and 922-9630 or e-mail programs@pssc.org.ph.

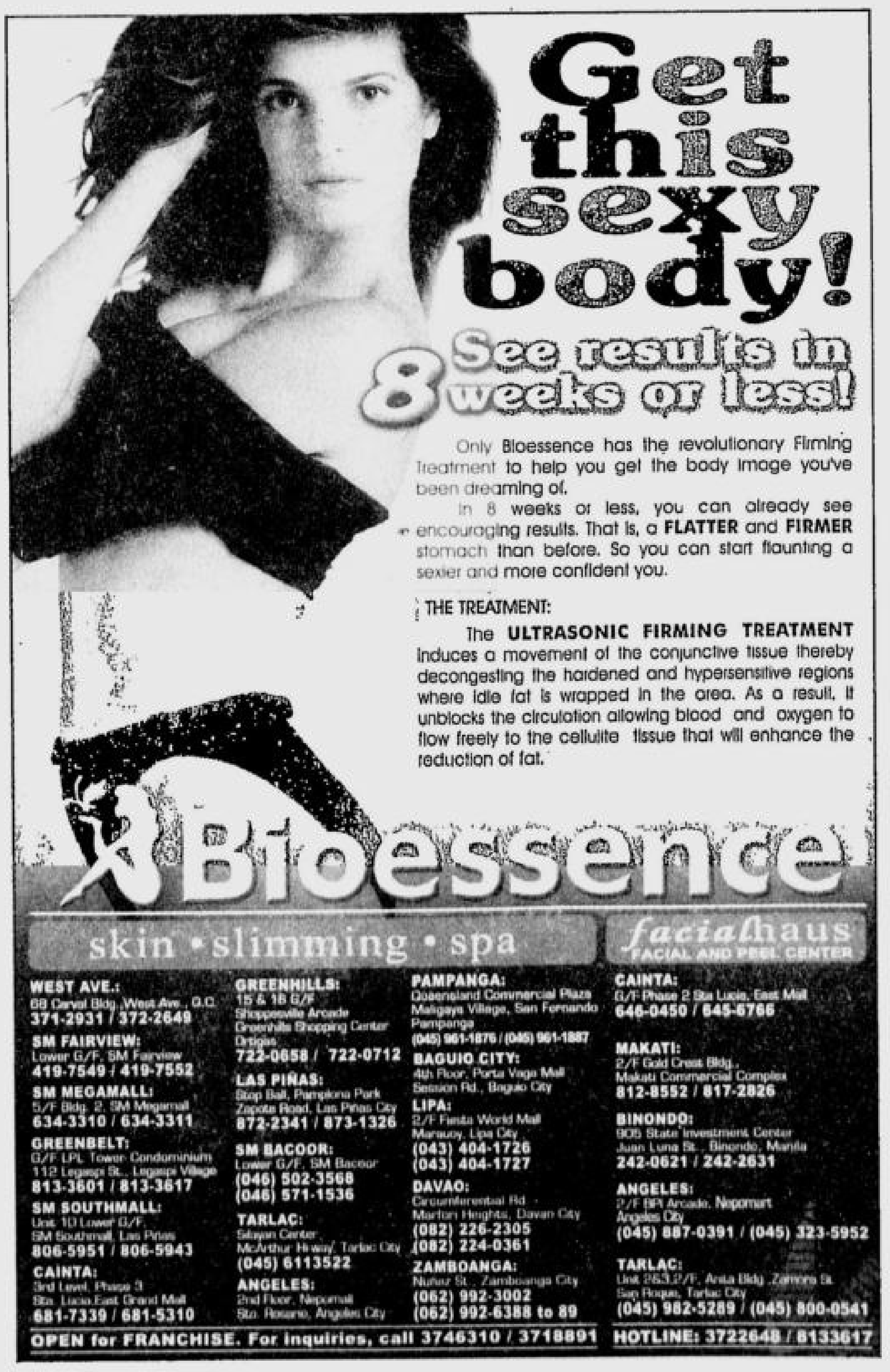
SYMPOSIUM. The National Museum and the Asia Rice Foundation will hold "Rice in the Seven Arts Symposium" Feb. 20-21. This is part of the National Museum's program for the National Arts Month 2003. Papers will be presented on the following topics: Overview of Rice in Philippine Culture, Rice in Music, Rice in Dance, Rice in Theater Arts, Rice in Cinema, Rice in Visual Arts, Rice in Architecture, and Rice in Literature. register on or before Jan. 31 TO get a 30-percent discount. Call 527-1215 or (049) 536-2285.

WORKSHOP. The Japan Foundation Manila Office and the Center for International Studies (will hold a Japanese Language Teachers' seminar-workshop 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 1, at the CIS, 1/F Benton Hall, University of the Philippines, Diliman, QC. Deadline for submission of registrations form is Jan. 28. The JFMO is on the 12/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Call 811-6155 to 58 and 911-6153.



AIG P1-MILLION RAFFLE PROMO

Marisol Dimacali, an AIG cardholder, was the winner in the recent AIG P1-Million Raffle Promo. She got a payback for her latest total credit card bill and the grand prize of P1 million additional credit as spending money, tax-free. Cardholders, who used their AIG Credit Cards for purchases worth at least P1,000, automatically earned one raffle entry while those who transferred P1,000 to their cards under the Balance Transfer program, earned two entries. Shown with Dimacali are AIGCCCPI execs Rolly Tanchanco, Annie Umali and Sandro Villaraza.



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CAINTA:
3rd Level, Phase 3
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
681-7339 / 681-5310

GREENHILLS:
15 & 16 G/F
Shoppesville Arcade
Greenhills Shopping Center
Ortigas
722-0658 / 722-0712

LAS PIÑAS:
Stop Ball, Pamplona Park
Zapote Road, Las Piñas City
872-2341 / 873-1326

SM BACOOR:
Lower G/F, SM Bacoor
(046) 502-3568
(046) 571-1536

TARLAC:
Siapan Center
McArthur Hiway, Tarlac City
(045) 6113522

ANGELES:
2nd Floor, Nepomall
Sto. Rosario, Angeles City

PAMPANGA:
Queensland Commercial Plaza
Maligaya Village, San Fernando
Pampanga
(045) 961-1876 / (045) 961-1887

BAGUIO CITY:
4th Floor, Porta Vaga Mall
Session Rd., Baguio City

LIPA:
2/F Fiesta World Mall
Marauoy, Lipa City
(043) 404-1726
(043) 404-1727

DAVAO:
Circumferential Rd.
Marfori Heights, Davao City
(082) 226-2305
(082) 224-0361

ZAMBOANGA:
Nuñez St., Zamboanga City
(062) 992-3002
(062) 992-6388 to 89

CAINTA:
G/F Phase 2 Sta Lucia, East Mall
646-0450 / 645-6766

MAKATI:
2/F Gold Crest Bldg.,
Makati Commercial Complex
812-8552 / 817-2826

BINONDO:
905 State Investment Center
Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
242-0621 / 242-2631

ANGELES:
2/F BPI Arcade, Nepomart
Angeles City
(045) 887-0391 / (045) 323-5952

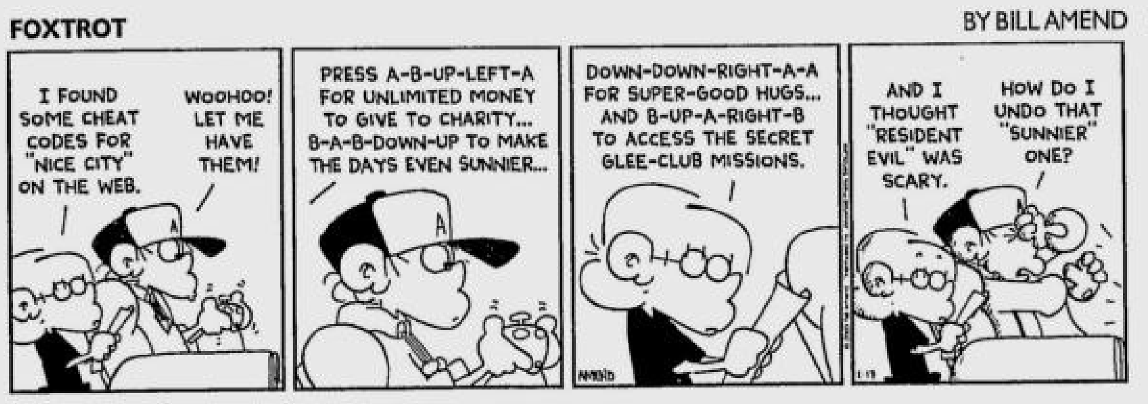
TARLAC:
Unit 2&3 2/F, Anua Bldg. Zamora St.
San Roque, Tarlac City
(045) 982-5289 / (045) 800-0541

OPEN for FRANCHISE. For inquiries, call 3746310 / 3718891
HOTLINE: 3722648 / 8133617

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ComicRelief
e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2003

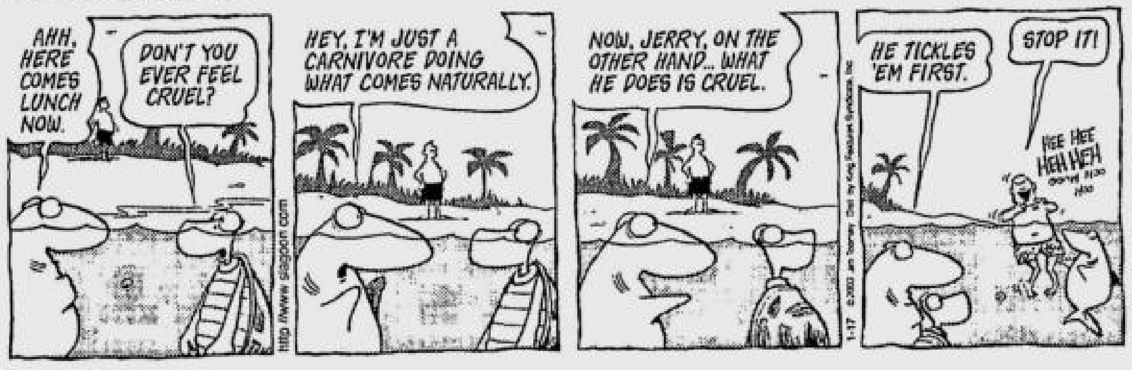
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


I FOUND SOME CHEAT CODES FOR "NICE CITY" ON THE WEB.
WOOHOO! LET ME HAVE THEM!
PRESS A-B-UP-LEFT-A FOR UNLIMITED MONEY TO GIVE TO CHARITY... B-A-B-DOWN-UP TO MAKE THE DAYS EVEN SUNNIER...
DOWN-DOWN-RIGHT-A-A FOR SUPER-GOOD HUGS... AND B-UP-A-RIGHT-B TO ACCESS THE SECRET GLEE-CLUB MISSIONS.
AND I THOUGHT "RESIDENT EVIL" WAS SCARY.
HOW DO I UNDO THAT "SUNNIER" ONE?
AMEND
1-19

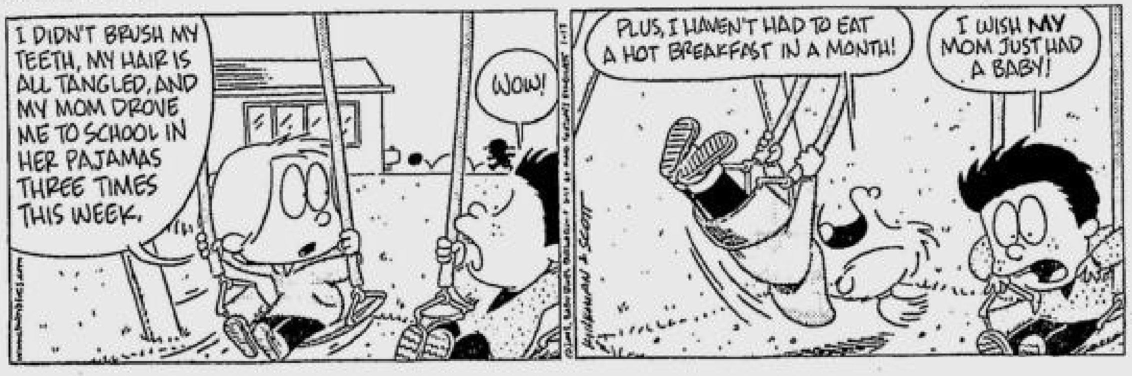
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


AHH, HERE COMES LUNCH NOW.
DON'T YOU EVER FEEL CRUEL?
http://www.slagoon.com
HEY, I'M JUST A CARNIVORE DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY.
NOW, JERRY, ON THE OTHER HAND... WHAT HE DOES IS CRUEL.
HE TICKLES 'EM FIRST.
STOP IT!
HEE HEE HEH HEH
1-17

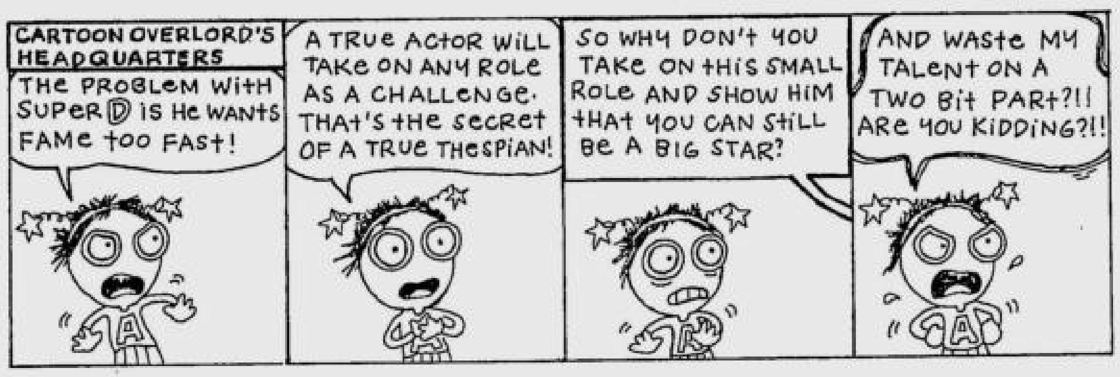
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I DIDN'T BRUSH MY TEETH, MY HAIR IS ALL TANGLED, AND MY MOM DROVE ME TO SCHOOL IN HER PAJAMAS THREE TIMES THIS WEEK.
WOW!
PLUS, I HAVEN'T HAD TO EAT A HOT BREAKFAST IN A MONTH!
I WISH MY MOM JUST HAD A BABY!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


CARTOON OVERLORD'S HEADQUARTERS
THE PROBLEM WITH SUPER D IS HE WANTS FAME TOO FAST!
A TRUE ACTOR WILL TAKE ON ANY ROLE AS A CHALLENGE. THAT'S THE SECRET OF A TRUE THESPIAN!
SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ON THIS SMALL ROLE AND SHOW HIM THAT YOU CAN STILL BE A BIG STAR?
AND WASTE MY TALENT ON A TWO BIT PART?!! ARE YOU KIDDING?!!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Caruso, Larry Fortensky, Betty White, Jim Carrey, James Earl Jones

Happy Birthday: You will work toward stabilizing your life this year. Tie up loose ends and start new beginnings. Your creative talent will be at an all-time high. You will discover the inspiration you are looking for. Your numbers are 2, 7, 15, 21, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your secrets to yourself today. Your reputation may be ruined if you have been involved in something that you are not proud of. You'll have to do a little damage control.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll look good in the eyes of others today. Take a powerful stance when it comes to your beliefs. Social activities and romance should be highlighted today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not everyone will be happy with the things you choose to do. Avoid discord by including others in your activities. You will pick up information today that will enable you to advance professionally.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Love interests are present, however, the turmoil you are experiencing is all-consuming. Pull yourself away from the stress and spend time enjoying yourself.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel and communication should be on your agenda. Take a break from your regular routine. You don't have to be the center of attention all the time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make your move and speak your mind. If someone interests you, tell them. You will get the response you are looking for. This is a day to celebrate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Find your own little space, free from the disharmony that surrounds you. You have the ability to look at all sides of a situation and, given the right setting, you will find a solution to whatever is bothering you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be prepared to deal with people who are judgmental. If you are prepared to defend yourself, no one who opposes you will stand a chance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your help will be valued, so offer assistance to someone who is in dire need. Don't feel limited if you can't physically travel. Mental gains will be gratifying.

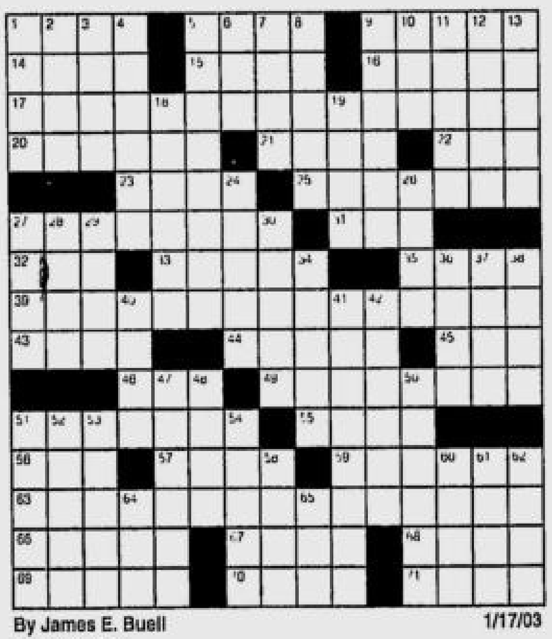
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Deception is in the picture, so don't believe everything that you're told. Read between the lines and ask pertinent questions. Don't neglect to do your share of the work today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your creative ideas will rise to the surface today. The new friends you make today will be important to your future direction and accomplishments.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The changes you make to yourself, your home or your life in general will lead to increased self-esteem. You'll have a better understanding of what you really want to do with your life.

Birthday Baby: You will be perceptive, energetic and always willing to take on more than is required. You will be enterprising, engaging and always gaining experience.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL
1/17/03

ACROSS
1 Adversaries
5 Tableland
9 Piece of cake
14 Chief Justice Warren
15 For both sexes
16 Cherish
17 Stop
20 Texas capital
21 Hot under the collar
22 Cannon's end?
23 URL starter
25 Raise Cain
27 Footwear for Hines
31 Compass dir.
32 After the fashion of
33 Cordage fibers
35 Western alliance letters
39 Look
43 Fume
44 Fountain selections
45 "Rosemary's Baby" author Levin
46 Work unit
49 Stopped by
51 Pantomimes
55 Low dam
56 Pull along
57 Spoken
59 Deals in stolen goods
63 Listen
66 Be of a single mind
67 "Only Time" singer
68 Sketch
69 Irritated
70 Tea-leaf reader
71 Hamilton bills

DOWN
1 Brine-cured cheese
2 Island between Molokai and Kauai
3 Makes a mistake
4 Tree-hanging vegans
5 Autumn apple
6 Many moons
7 Hardens
8 Kind of committee
9 Supplies food for
10 Altar vow
11 Forget about it!
12 Formula of belief
13 __ Gurley Brown
18 Trendy
19 Years of note
24 Townshend and Sampras
26 Clinton's Attorney General
27 Stealer stoppers
28 Stepped down
29 Macadamize
30 Single-master
34 Bestow upon
36 Zealous
37 Garr or Hatcher
38 Algerian seaport
40 Flock females
41 De Niro film
42 Spots
47 Swindled
48 Swami
50 Frank's comic-strip partner
51 How some stocks are sold
52 Welsh dog breed
53 Rotate rapidly
54 CD alternatives
58 __ Star State
60 Birthday food
61 Actress Moran
62 Mach breakers
64 Middling mark
65 TV's "Science Guy" Bill

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

I	N	S	T	E	P	■	L	O	B	■	M	E	T	A
N	E	P	A	L	I	■	A	N	A	■	E	P	I	C
O	N	C	E	I	N	A	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E
N	E	A	■	C	O	D	A	■	F	D	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	W	I	L	D	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E
P	A	L	A	T	E	■	■	N	E	Y	■	B	A	D
E	R	O	D	E	■	C	O	T	S	■	P	E	N	S
D	A	V	I	D	■	L	I	E	■	B	Y	R	N	E
A	B	E	S	■	T	I	L	L	■	A	R	I	E	L
N	I	L	■	S	U	N	■	■	S	W	E	A	R	S
T	A	L	K	I	N	G	H	E	A	D	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	V	I	■	A	T	L	I	■	S	R	A
S	A	M	E	A	S	I	T	E	V	E	R	W	A	S
O	M	N	I	■	I	R	E	■	E	S	H	A	R	P
L	I	O	N	■	A	R	S	■	S	T	O	N	E	S

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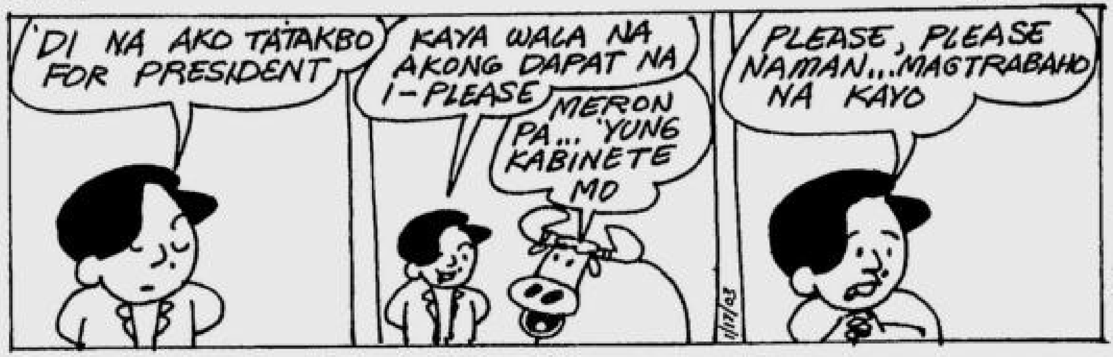
1/17/03

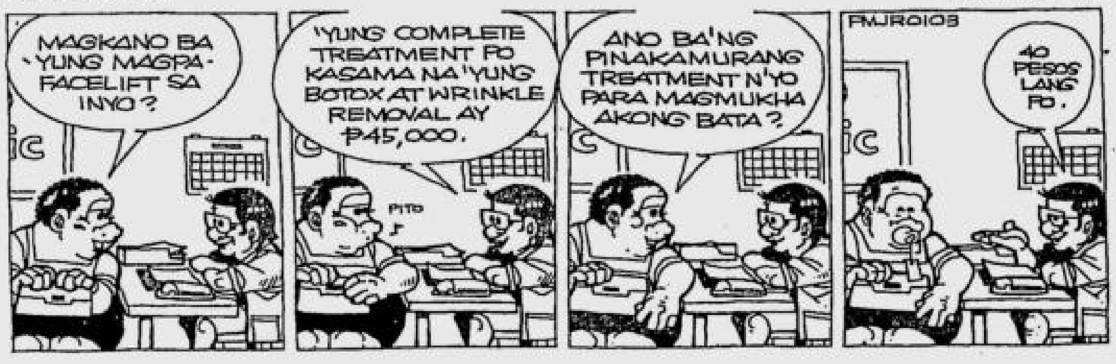
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI NA AKO TATAKBO FOR PRESIDENT
KAYA WALA NA AKONG DAPAT NA I-PLEASE
MERON PA... 'YUNG KABINETE MO
PLEASE, PLEASE NAMAN... MAGTRABAHO NA KAYO
1/17/03

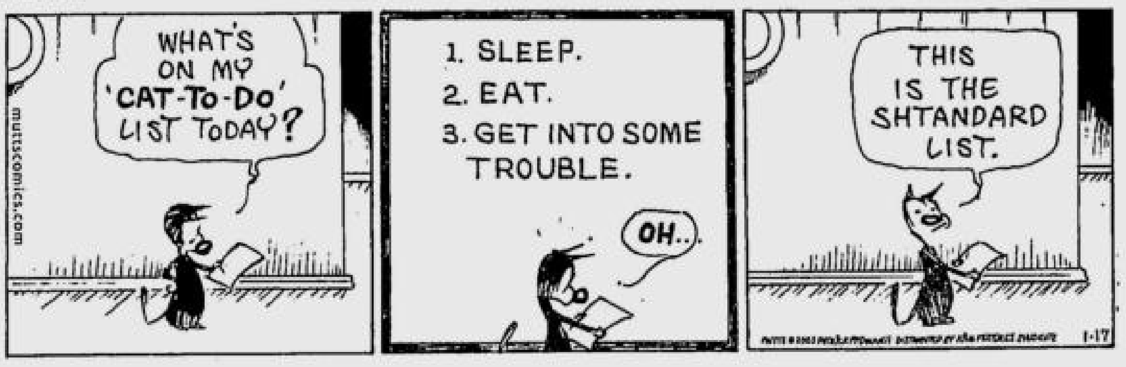
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGKANO BA 'YUNG MAGPA-FACELIFT SA INYO?
'YUNG COMPLETE TREATMENT PO KASAMA NA 'YUNG BOTOX AT WRINKLE REMOVAL AY ₱45,000.
PITO
ANO BA'NG PINAKAMURANG TREATMENT N'YO PARA MAGMUKHA AKONG BATA?
PMJR0103
40 PESOS LANG PO.

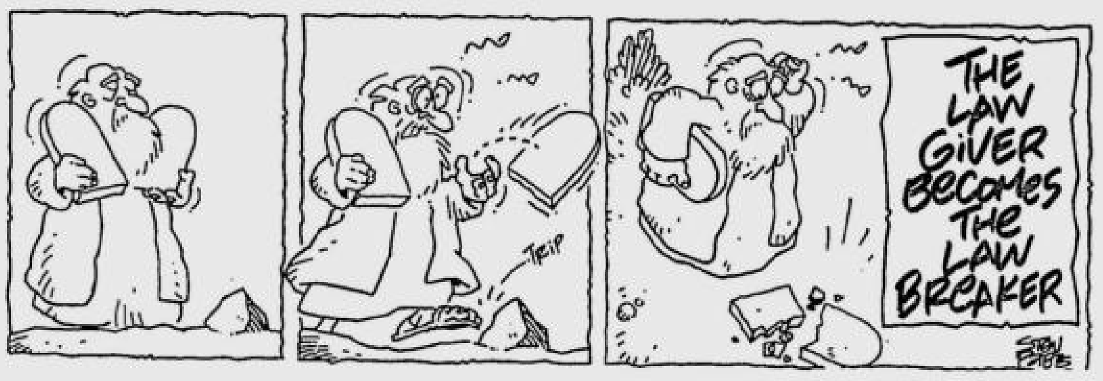
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'S ON MY 'CAT-TO-DO' LIST TODAY?
muttscomics.com
1. SLEEP.
2. EAT.
3. GET INTO SOME TROUBLE.
OH..
THIS IS THE SHTANDARD LIST.
1-17

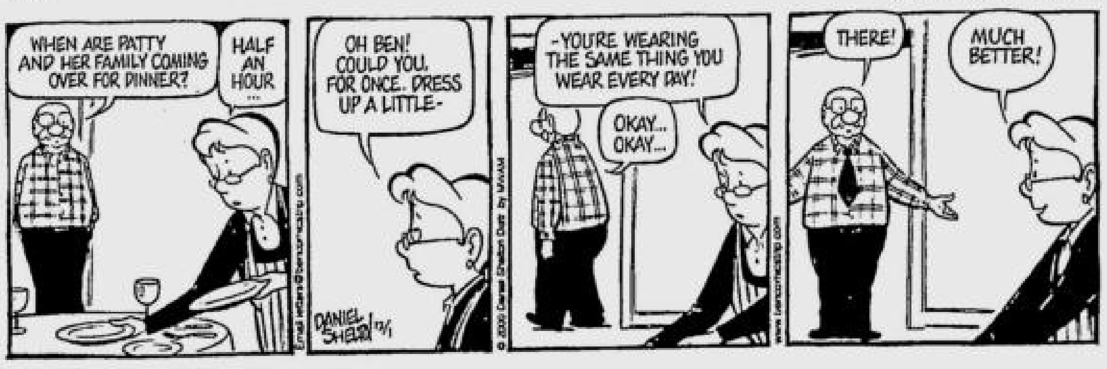
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TRIP
THE LAW GIVER BECOMES THE LAW BREAKER

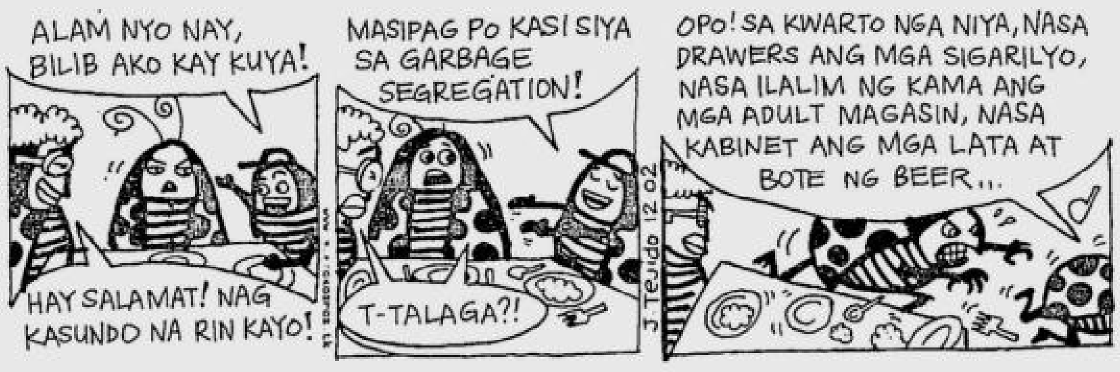
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHEN ARE PATTY AND HER FAMILY COMING OVER FOR DINNER?
HALF AN HOUR ...
OH BEN! COULD YOU, FOR ONCE, DRESS UP A LITTLE-
DANIEL SHELTON
-YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME THING YOU WEAR EVERY DAY!
OKAY... OKAY...
THERE!
MUCH BETTER!

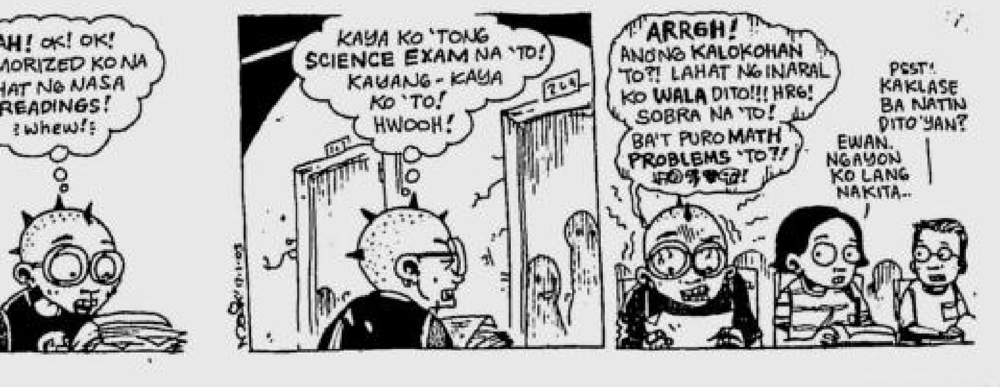
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALAM NYO NAY, BILIB AKO KAY KUYA!
HAY SALAMAT! NAG KASUNDO NA RIN KAYO!
MASIPAG PO KASI SIYA SA GARBAGE SEGREGATION!
T-TALAGA?!
J. Tejido 12 02
OPO! SA KWARTO NGA NIYA, NASA DRAWERS ANG MGA SIGARILYO, NASA ILALIM NG KAMA ANG MGA ADULT MAGASIN, NASA KABINET ANG MGA LATA AT BOTE NG BEER...

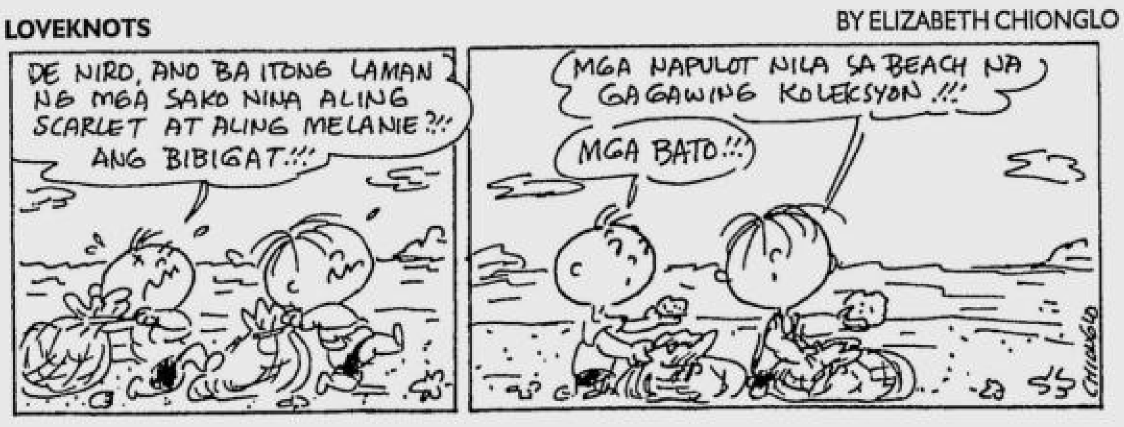
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAH! OK! OK! MEMORIZED KO NA LAHAT NG NASA READINGS! whew!
KAYA KO 'TONG SCIENCE EXAM NA 'TO! KAYANG-KAYA KO 'TO! HWOOH!
ARRGH! ANONG KALOKOHAN TO?! LAHAT NG INARAL KO WALA DITO!!! HRG! SOBRA NA 'TO! BA'T PURO MATH PROBLEMS 'TO?!
PSST! KAKLASE BA NATIN DITO 'YAN?
EWAN. NGAYON KO LANG NAKITA..

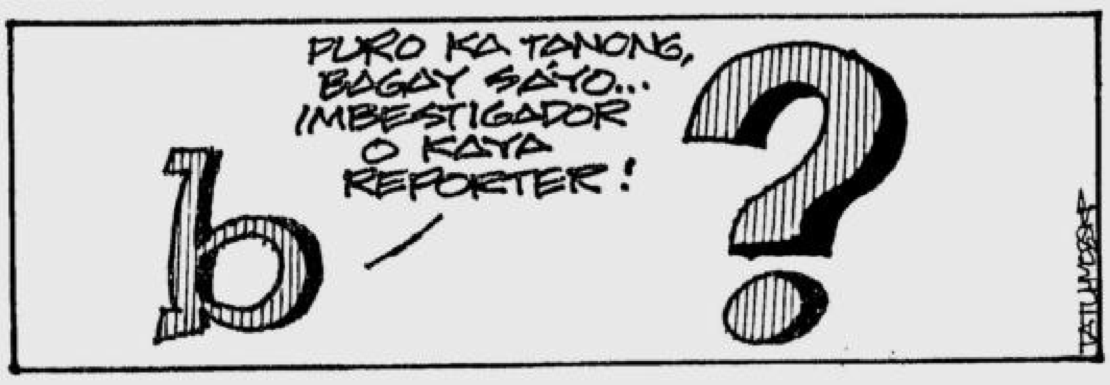
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ANO BA ITONG LAMAN NG MGA SAKO NINA ALING SCARLET AT ALING MELANIE?!! ANG BIBIGAT!!!
MGA NAPULOT NILA SA BEACH NA GAGAWING KOLEKSYON!!!
MGA BATO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PURO KA TANONG, BAGAY SAYO... IMBESTIGADOR O KAYA REPORTER!
b
?
TATUM

Introducing Suiseki, Japanese miniature rock and garden art

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

IF WE need to understand why it is important to preserve our environment, we have only to look at the work of landscape architects and garden lovers.

They build beautiful worlds of plants, flowers, rocks and pools, craft quiet nooks to enjoy birdsong and gentle breezes, elements fast becoming rare in a planet that has come to embrace the harshness of steel and concrete.

This is evident as well in scenic creations in miniature. In building such little landscapes, these artists of nature, in effect, create biospheres as intended for Earth, without which, where would man be?

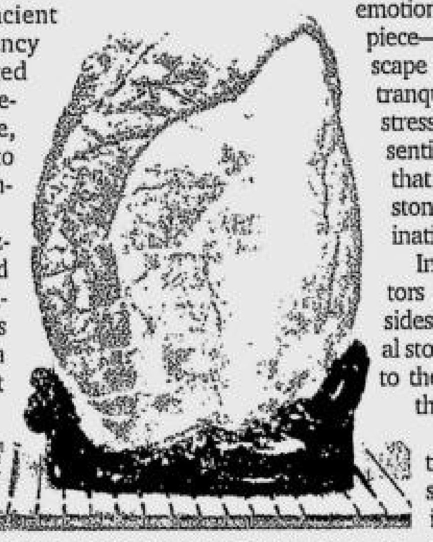
Their miniscule worlds help to remind us that, once upon a time, man lived in an Eden filled with everything he needed to survive, until he developed new knowledge that has brought about the age-old conflict between development and destruction, conservation vs overuse.

Asians, especially the Japanese and Chinese, seem to have known early on that they lived in a wonderland of nature, and that it had to be preserved if they were to continue to enjoy and benefit from it. Preservation, in those ancient times, did not have the urgency it has today. So, they indulged themselves in leisurely recreations of nature in miniature, from dwarf plants (bonsai) to mountain landscapes of unusual stones—*suiseki*.

Suiseki is an art form utilizing small, naturally formed stones admired for their beauty and, as one definition puts it, for their power to suggest a scene from nature. An art form originating thousands of years ago from Buddhist and Taoist beliefs and philosophies, it has obvious spiritual dimensions.

Many Filipinos may not be as familiar with *suiseki* (pronounced soo-ee-se-ki) as they are with bonsai, another Japanese garden art, since the former was introduced in this country only two years ago, when the Natural Stone Society of the Philippines was organized by Felicidad S. Gupit. She is, incidentally, the only Filipino member of the International Suiseki Association.

Most bonsai enthusiasts find kindred interest in *suiseki* because somehow they complement each other. They both recreate nature in miniature, bonsai with its dwarf trees, *suiseki* with its dwarf representations of mountains, lakes and distant vistas.



ABSTRACT STONE (PATTERN). From the collection of George Yao

Complicated art

Suiseki seems to be the more complicated art with different aesthetic concepts, generally known as *wabi*, *sabi*, *shibui* and *yugen*, governing its practice. The words mean practically the same thing but with nuances of differences hard to define in English.

At any rate, collectors of stones for *suiseki* learn that the most valuable stone is one that is hard and firm, with interesting color, patina and texture, and balanced shape. When out on their collecting treks, collectors must look for obvious faults or structural defects in the stones, and see whether a stone suggests a distant peak, an island, or some other object associated with nature.

Like in most works of art, the emotions aroused by the art piece—in this case, the landscape in stone, whether it be tranquility and serenity, or stress and anxiety—are essential considerations. So it is that collectors search for stones that excite their imagination.

Incidentally, *suiseki* collectors go to mountains, seasides, any place where unusual stones may be found to add to their collection and create their "stonescapes."

Traditionally, stones that suggest a mountain set in a lake or an island in the sea are the most sought-after, but time and new attitudes have changed these stringent rules , and now, any naturally formed stone that suggests a natural scene or object is accepted.

When such a scene is created in *suiseki*, the result is something that may often be expressed in haiku, the Japanese verse form of 17 syllables. The operative word here is "suggestiveness" and an attendant discipline to make a compact, comprehensive whole.

Suiseki, like other arts worked from nature, is meant to be displayed as objects for contemplation and meditation. Even the trays or pots they are displayed on—the *suiban*—become an integral part of the artwork.

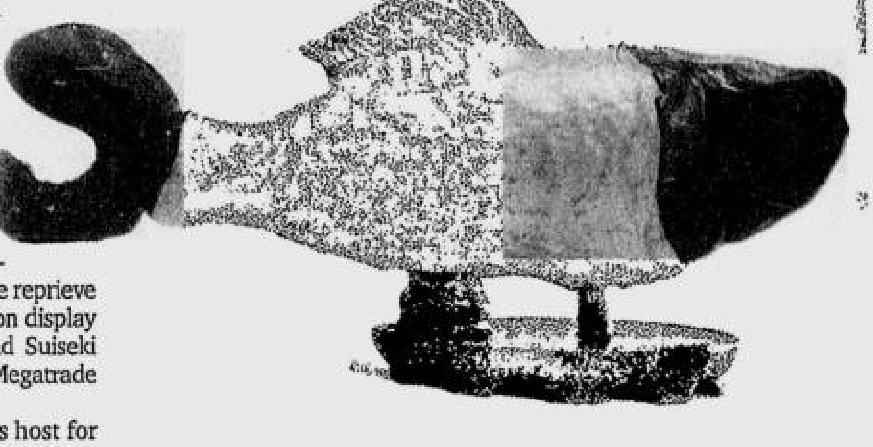
There is much to know about *suiseki* that cannot be contained in a column with limited space. Emperors were the art's earliest enthusiasts. They set the trend, as it were, and this popularized the art form.

That *suiseki* still has adherents, and from all walks of life, to this day is a reflection of its value and continued popularity. *Suiseki* and all art forms that utilize natural objects is a good way of fostering environmentalism and developing a desire to enhance nature rather than destroy it.

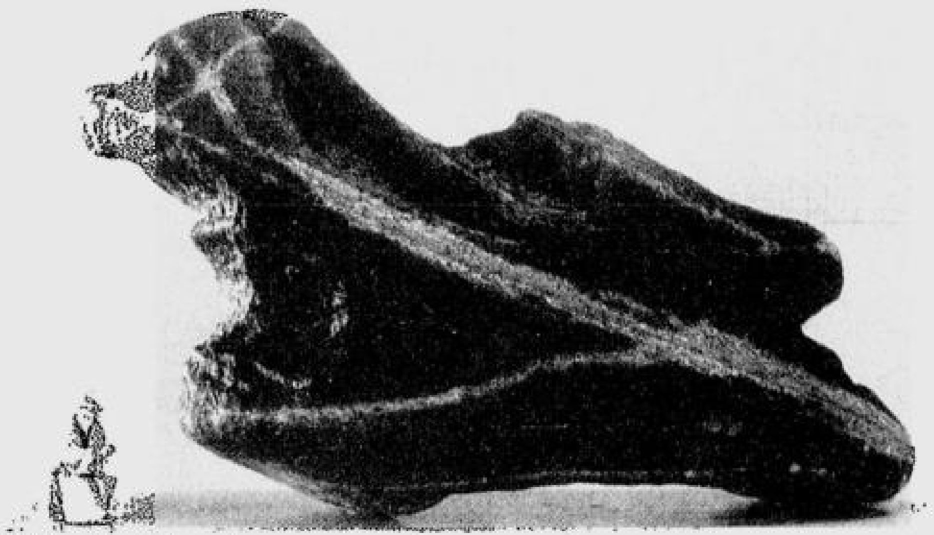
In these times when Manilans are beset with problems of garbage disposal and air pollution, they will get a little reprieve when the beauty of *suiseki* art will be on display during the 7th Asia-Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition or Aspac 2003 at the SM Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

The exhibit, which the Philippines host for the first time, will be open Feb. 27-March 2.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



ANIMAL STONE (FISH). From the collection of Fely S. Gupit



SHELTER STONE. From the collection of Dory S. Bernabe

Interesting pieces at lifestyle store

LIVING Well, the new lifestyle store at The Podium, offers almost everything one can need for bed, bath, table and kitchen.

A large percentage of the carefully selected merchandise is sourced from the United States and Europe.

Brands carried by the store include Wilton and Wearever in the US, Ballarini from Italy, Oxo from China, JG Durand of France, Bormioli of Italy, Mikasa of Japan, and Anchor Hocking.

Linens from Martex, towels from Wamsutta and accessories from Rubbermaid are also available.

Prices at .Living Well are very reasonable.

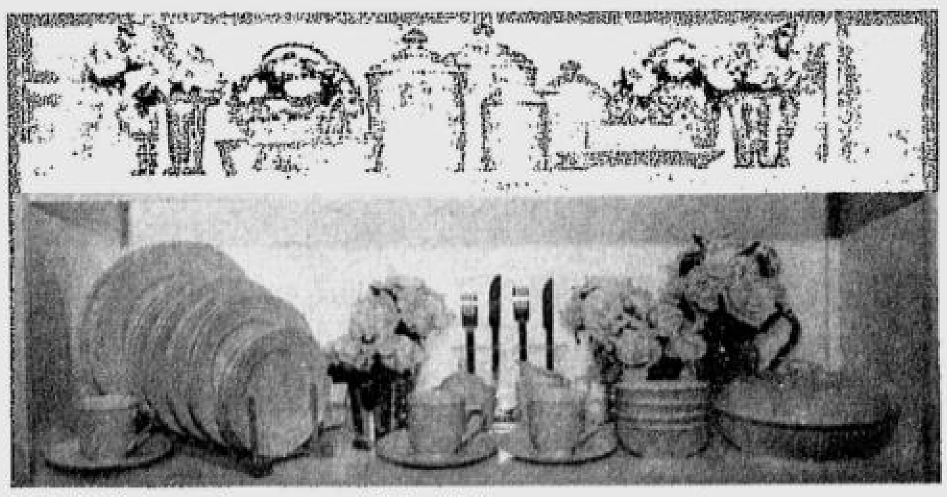
Some of the interesting things at the store are:

- Olive dishes in brightly colored ceramics under P150
- Basic white porcelain tableware for everyday use (dinner plates are under P100)
- Bath accessories, like ceramic and dark wood lotion dispensers and soap dishes, below P120
- Basic white linen—white towels in all sizes for the bathroom and bedroom linen in 100-percent cotton
- Tulip-footed soaking tub from an old apartment in San Francisco and handcrafted wood and wool sheep from Germany. Unique gift sets can also be customized for Living Well's clients. The store's staff can help customers find gifts for all tastes and budgets.

In February, Living Well will open an in-store café and an open kitchen where kids can have cooking lessons.

The in-store café at the store's mezzanine will serve French-Italian cuisine. Cooking classes will be conducted by Vicky Veloso Barrera. Wilton, a prestigious bakeware brand in the US, will also be conducting lessons.

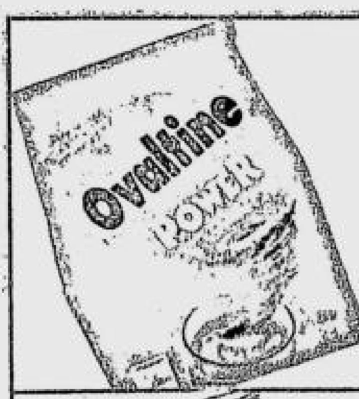
Living Well is on the third level of The Podium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center.



MIKASA'S elegant dinner ware at Living Well.

Stuffed Crust
Cheesy Crust
Double Stuffed Crust
YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH OUR STUFFED CRUST PIZZAS.
NOW IN A SIZE THAT'S GOOD FOR TWO!
Pizza Hut

TLC Total Lower Cost



OVALTINE
Power Choco Drink
200 g.

TLC PRICE
P25^{25} ea.

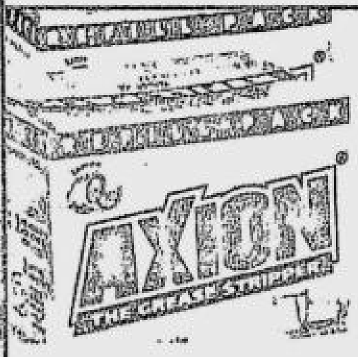
new
Year
new
Look

ARIEL
Detergent Powder
48 g/6's

TLC PRICE
P33^{75} /pk.
Reg. Price 35.75

SUSTAGEN
Premium Adult Drink
• Chocolate
1 kg

TLC PRICE
P509^{50} ea.
Reg. Price 529.50



AXION
Dishwashing Paste
• Lemon
• Lime
• Orange Fantasy
Refill
350 g

TLC PRICE
P33^{75} ea.
Reg. Price 35.00

FRISOGROW
Growing Up Milk
900 g

TLC PRICE
P399^{50} ea.
Reg. Price 409.50

KIWI
Instant Shine Shoe Polish
• Brown
• Black
• Neutral
75 mL

TLC PRICE
P96^{75} ea.
Reg. Price 101.75

CLOSE-UP
Toothpaste
Lemon Mint

10 mL / 6's
P29^{75} /pk.

25 mL
P14^{75} ea.

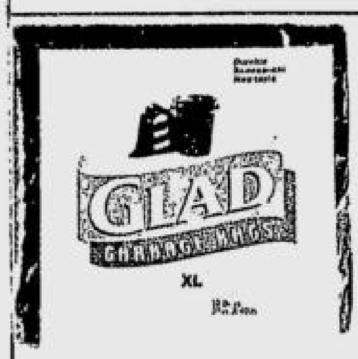
50 mL
P25^{75} ea.

100 mL
P41^{75} ea.

150 mL
P57^{75} ea.

DUMEX
3 Plus Growing Up Milk
• With Honey
800 g

TLC PRICE
P259^{50} ea.
Reg. Price 271.50



GLAD
Garbage Bags
• XL
10's

TLC PRICE
P64^{75} /pk.
Reg. Price 69.75

GOTCHA TOO!
Bite Size Chocolate Bar
20's

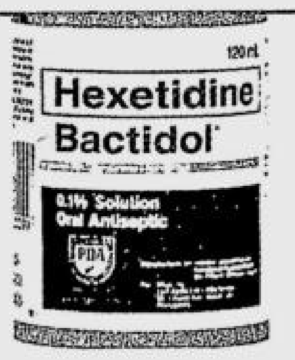
TLC PRICE
P16^{50} /pk.
Reg. Price 17.50

PUREFOODS
Beefies Hotdog
• Regular
1 kg.

TLC PRICE
P95^{75} /pk.
Reg. Price 97.75

NESTLÉ
Ice Cream Supreme
• Cookies & Cream
• Double Dutch
900 mL.

TLC PRICE
P87^{00} ea.
Reg. Price 95.00

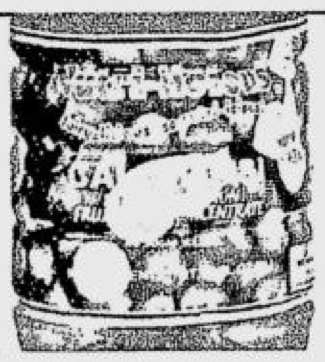


BACTIDOL
Oral Antiseptic
120 mL.

TLC PRICE
P125^{75} ea.

LESLIE
Clover Chips
• Barbecue
• Cheese
90 g.

TLC PRICE
P14^{50} ea.



NUTRI-LICIOUS
Calamansi Concentrate
1 Liter

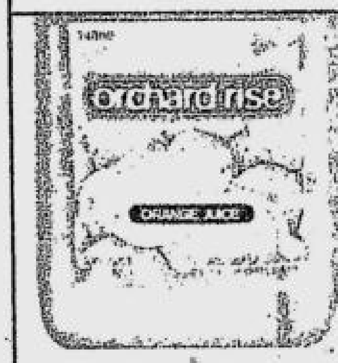
TLC PRICE
P134^{75} ea.
Reg. Price 144.75

CARE
Disposable Diapers
• Medium
24's

TLC PRICE
P140^{00} /pk.
Reg. Price 148.50

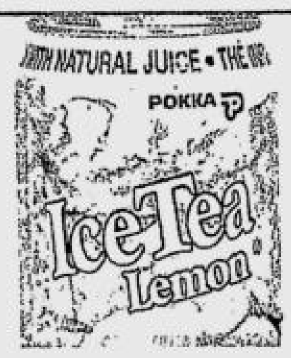
LANDER
Baby Powder
625 g

TLC PRICE
P70^{00} ea.
Reg. Price 74.75



ORCHARD RISE
Juice Drink
• Orange
• Apple
• Grapefruit
2 Liters

TLC PRICE
P99^{75} ea.
Reg. Price 109.75

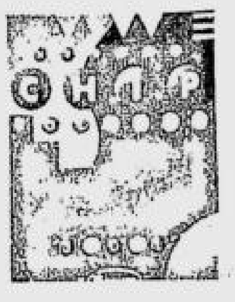


POKKA
Ice Tea In Can
• Lemon
330 mL.

TLC PRICE
P25^{50} ea.
Reg. Price 27.50

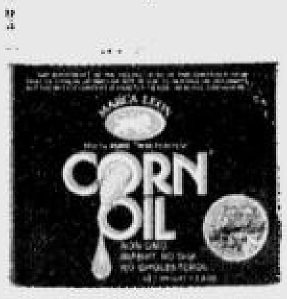
MODESS
Maxi Feminine Napkin
• Cottony Soft w/o Wings
8's

TLC PRICE
P21^{00} /pk.
Reg. Price 22.00



NENUCO
Chip Colonia
300 mL.

TLC PRICE
P205^{00} ea.
Reg. Price 219.75

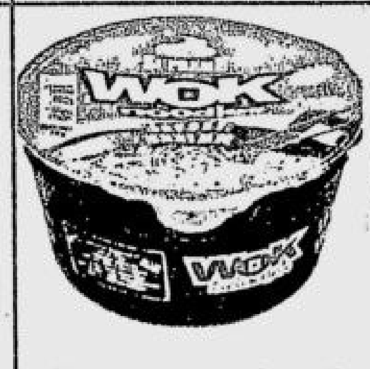


MARCA LEON
Corn Oil
1.6 kg

TLC PRICE
P130^{00} ea.
Reg. Price 133.50

MAMA SITA'S
Spicy Sauce Mix
• Caldereta
50 g

TLC PRICE
P16^{50} ea.

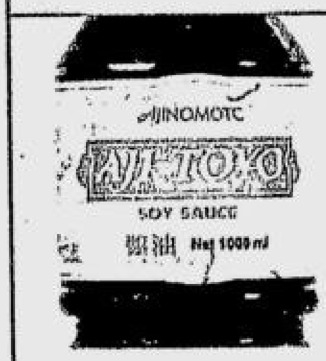


LUCKY ME!
Mini Wok Noodles
• Savory Shrimp
• Flaming Hot
• Spicy Beef
50 g.

TLC PRICE
P10^{45} ea.
Reg. Price 10.95

EXTRACT
Therapy Facial Cleanser
• Licorice
150 mL.

TLC PRICE
P32^{75} ea.
Reg. Price 34.75



AJI-TOYO
Soy Sauce
1 Liter

TLC PRICE
P21^{50} ea.
Reg. Price 23.00

KNORR ROYAL
Spaghetti
1 kg

TLC PRICE
P48^{25} /pk.
Reg. Price 50.60

NISSIN
Mini Cup Noodles
• All Variants
40 g.

TLC PRICE
P10^{50} ea.

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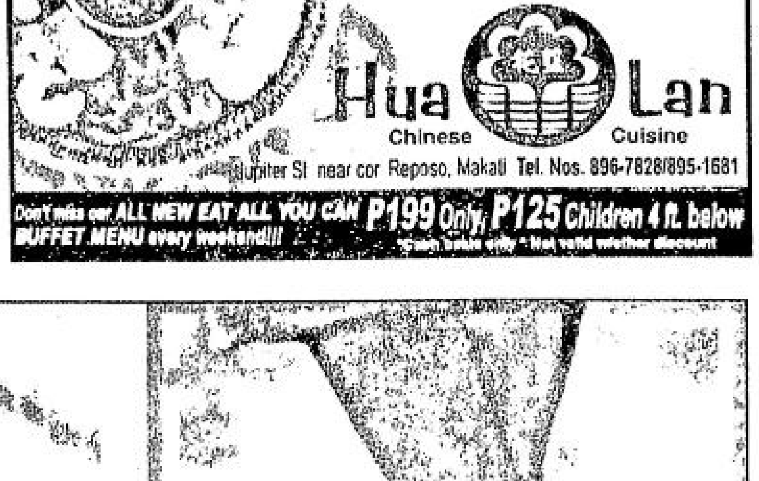
LIFESTYLE

DENNIS Salud and wife Liza Berroya-Salud feel right at home.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So near yet so far from Makati's bustle

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

IF there's one thing Dennis and Liza Salud relish about condominium living, it's the soothing silence it offers amid the hubbub of city life below. The couple and their two children live in a two-bedroom condo unit in Makati's central business district, within walking distance from the many business establishments that now make up the new and bigger Greenbelt.

"Unlike living in a house where you encounter all sorts of noise from outside," says Dennis, "living in a condominium offers uninterrupted peace and quiet. The only noise you have to deal with, if you're on the top floor, is the pitter-patter of rain on the roof."

But since they live several floors from the top, they don't have to worry about that as well. In fact, there were times when they were totally oblivious to the weather outside.

"This building is so insulated," says Liza. "We have to raise the shades every time to know exactly what the weather is like outside."

Streamline modern

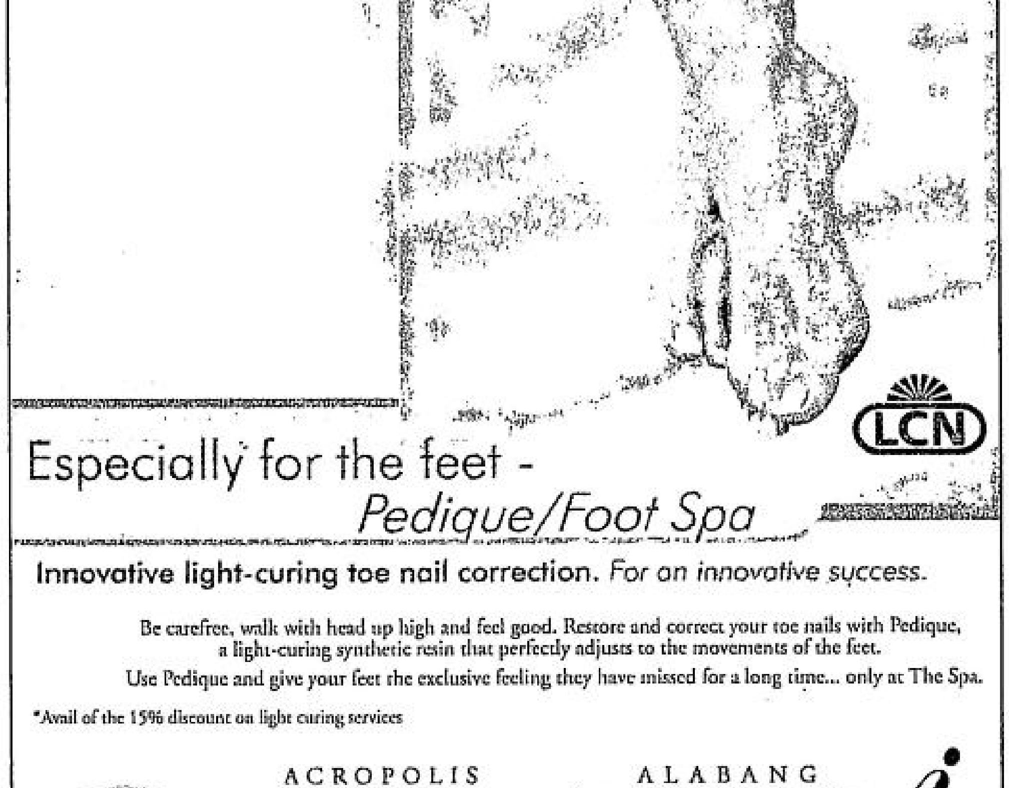
To make the most of their cocooning, the couple tapped the services of interior designer Eric Paras, who came up with a look he described as "streamline modern." Dennis, more than Liza, collaborated with Eric and became the prime mover in turning an empty shell—a gift from the husband's parents—into a refuge of earth tones and geometric figures.

"I was in charge of the dresser and the mirrors," quipped Liza, a former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe and daughter of Police Chief Superintendent Reynaldo Berroya, the controversial director of the Civil Security Group.

But Liza actively participated in whatever design schemes Dennis and Eric hatched. Armed with her knitting needles, she came to the site regularly with her husband. As it took a while before they could move in to their new home, she was able to knit an entire bed cover. Her labor of love is now spread on the matrimonial bed.

Dennis sought Eric after seeing the latter's work in the adjacent unit belonging to the former's broth-

SO NEAR/ E2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P100

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Meal #1 with Nestea

P49

Chin's EXPRESS
Soyed Squid in Garlic Sauce, Vegetable Spring Bag, Noodle Soup, Rice

ILONGGO GRILL
Breaded Fish Strips, Plain Rice

WEI-CHUAN FOODS
Lumpiang Shanghai, Plain Rice

Meal #2 with Nestea

P59

LYDIA'S LECHON
Rice Toppings

HEN LIN MAMI DIMSUM HOUSE
Spareribs, 3 pcs. Mini Cuapao

Sandy's Cuisine
Mixed Vegetables, Plain Rice, Soup

Meal #3 with Nestle Lemonade

P69

Inihaw EXPRESS
Seafood Binagoongan, Inihaw na Bangus, Chicken Sopas, Rice

handaan
Choose any 2 Ulam, Rice

Cindy's
Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice and Soup

Meal #4 with Nestle Lemonade

P79

SIZZLING PLATE
Honey Glazed Pork Chop, Java Rice, Mixed Vegetables

WOK'S COOKIN'
Squid Fillet, Plain Rice

SHOKUJI
1 Ebi Tempura, 2 Maguro (Tuna) Tempura, Rice

Meal #5 with Nestle Lemonade

P89

PINOY TOPPINGS
2 pcs. Barbecue, Bursilog, Soup

GOTO KING
Daing na Bangus, Okoy, Red Egg Salad, Batchoy Soup

Kipp's CHICKEN
2 pcs Chicken, Rice and Salad

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2 WIN AN INSTANT PRIZE!

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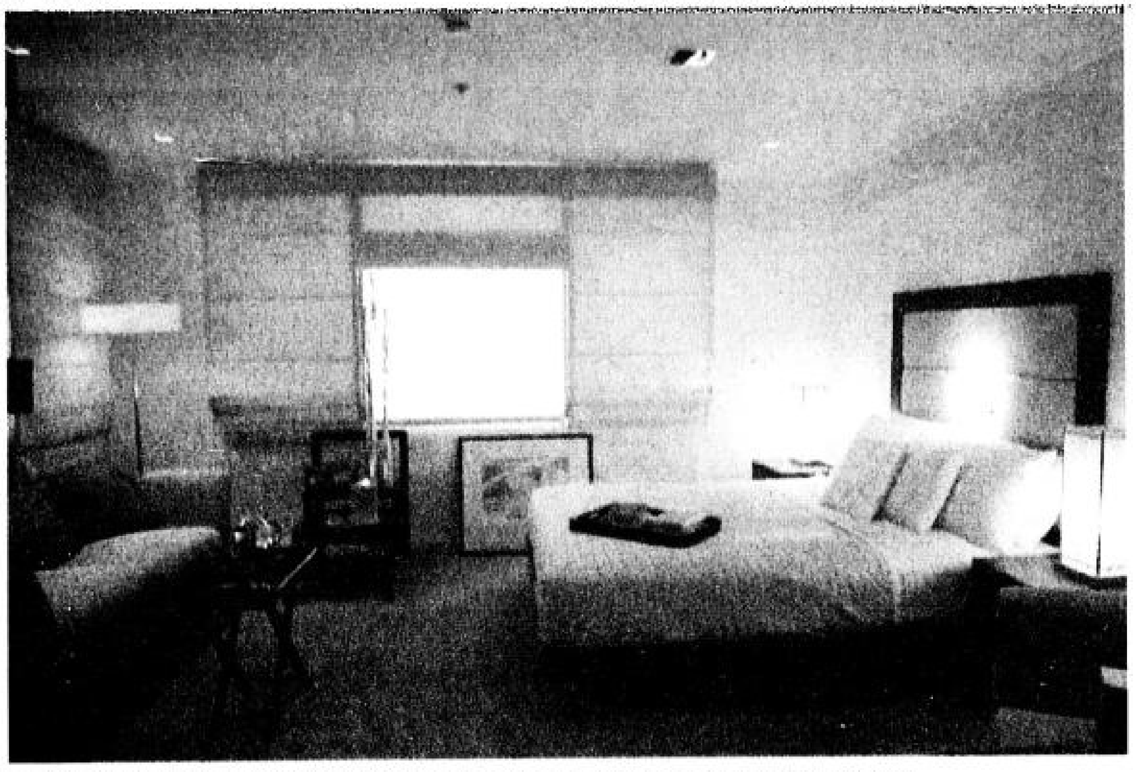
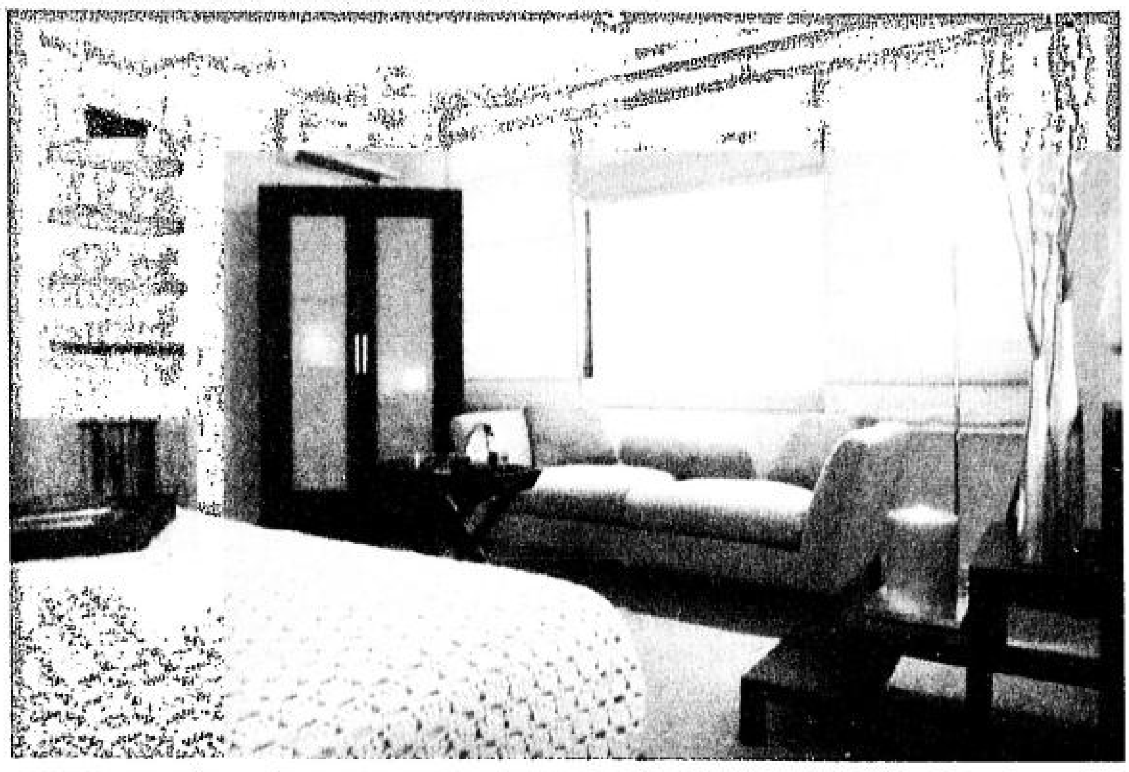


THE MASTER bedroom evokes a hotel feel with its clean and elegant furniture pieces.



OYSTER gray wall-to-wall carpeting and the wife's knitted bed cover add warmth to the master bedroom with a sweeping vista of Makati's central business'district.

So near yet so far from Makati's bustle

From page E1

er. The two men later discovered that they shared a love for clean, modern lines, an abundance of warm earth tones, and the clever use of such basic elements as wood, steel and glass.

New look for old

"I also had to think about how to refurbish old furniture pieces they (Dennis and Liza) got from their respective families," Eric said.

He had Dennis' old living room sofa, for instance, reupholstered in light olive that contrasted with varying shades of earth predominant in the area. Abstract paintings by E.R. Delingon in the sala and dining area complemented the entire setup. Accent pieces shaped like squares, rectangles and cubes added to the public areas' Zen-like feel.

"These shapes bolster the unit's modernist theme," said Eric, referring to the accent pieces' sharp, rigid edges.

And what's Dennis EVP of Trademark Industries for if his home couldn't showcase his company's (the exclusive distributor of JVC appliances in the Philippines) products? Thus, despite the limited living room space, there had to be an armoire to display his latest entertainment pieces.

"There's a TV in every room of this house except in the bathroom," Dennis said with a chuckle.

For this purpose, Eric designed a series of wenge-finished wooden compartments built around a central cabinet in the living room. The same shades of dark wood spilled over to the dining area in the form of four custom-built wooden chairs with cushioned seats. He also had a pair of Dennis' old office armchairs reupholstered and resized for both ends of the dining table.

Change of plan

Incidentally, the living room was the dining area in the original layout. Eric placed the dining area by the window—original site of the living room—to give the Salud family and their guests an awesome view of the Makati skyline while savoring their meals. A huge square mirror by the dining table give an illu-

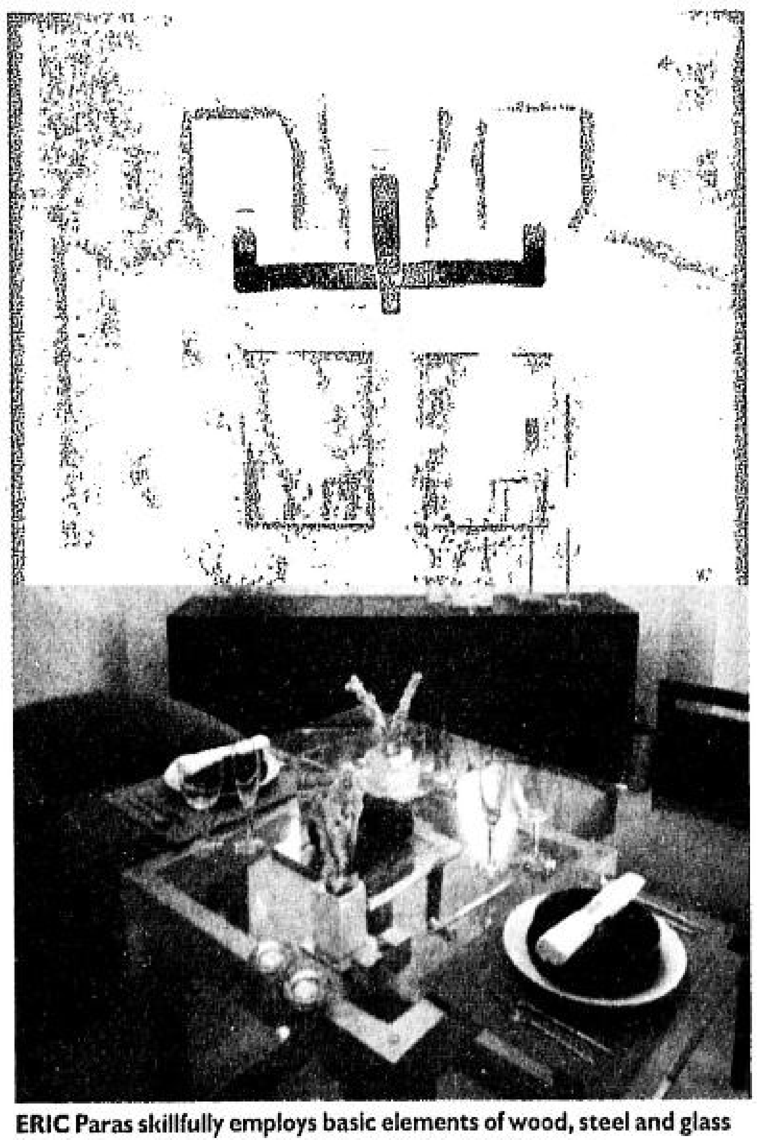
SO NEAR/ E4

THE LIVING room abounds in earth tones and sharp geometric pieces. Armoire hides the latest in home entertainment technology from JVC, the husband's preferred brand.

A STAINLESS steel basin mounted on ficem board functions as a sink in the powder room.

THE CLEVER use of real flowers and fruits soften and add warmth to an otherwise cold setup.

Condo living has come to mean 'cocooning' for this young couple



ERIC Paras skillfully employs basic elements of wood, steel and glass to come up with a modern yet warmth-filled dining area.

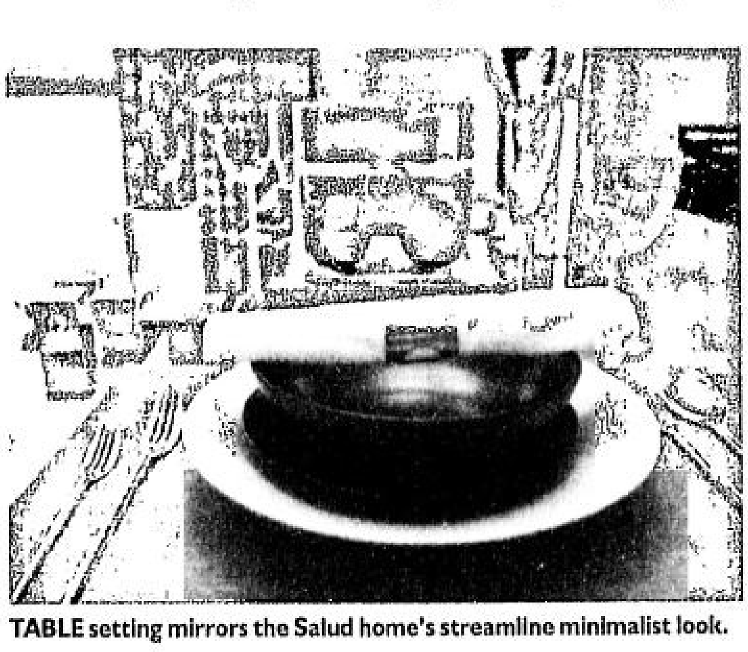
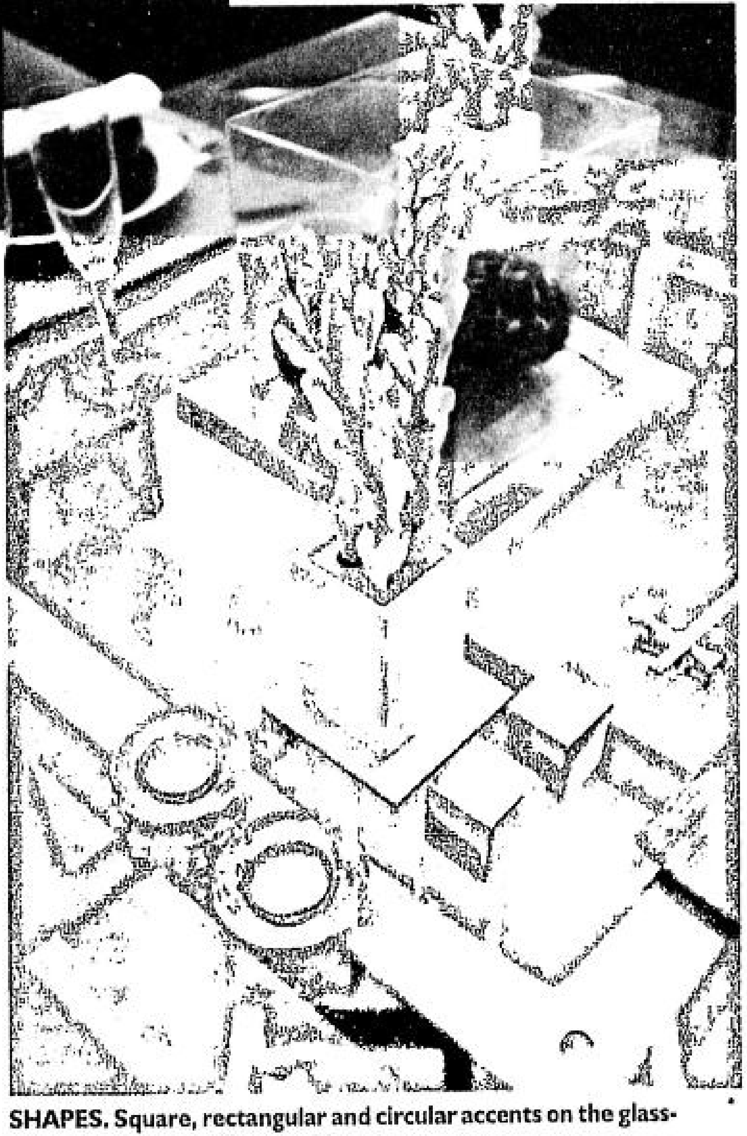


TABLE setting mirrors the Salud home's streamline minimalist look.



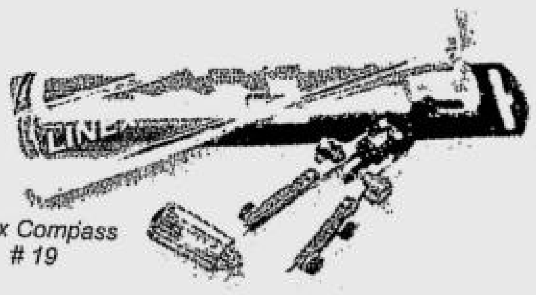
SHAPES. Square, rectangular and circular accents on the glass-topped rectangular dining table

10 ways to be more efficient this New Year

1. think clearly

Pioneer Stationers
Labelon Transparencies

2. be precise



Linex Compass
19

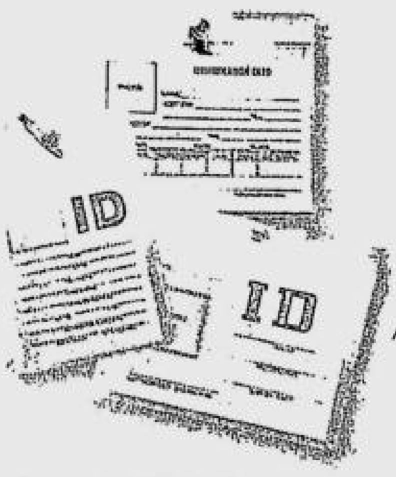
Eveready Big Red
Flashlight w/ Batteries

3. be ready for emergencies

4. back up files!!!!

EMTEC Diskette 3.5 2HD

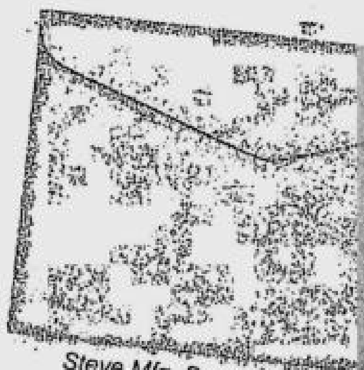
Soson Group Inc.
ID Nameplate with Cord



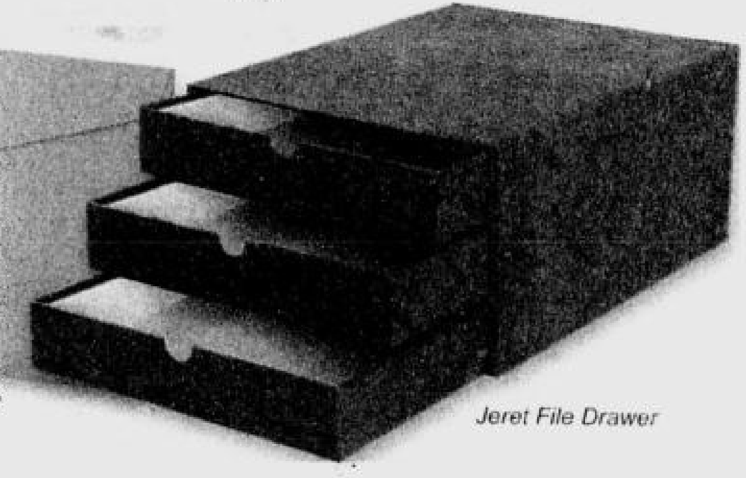
Amity Polyvinyl
ID Jackets

5. personalize

6. categorize files



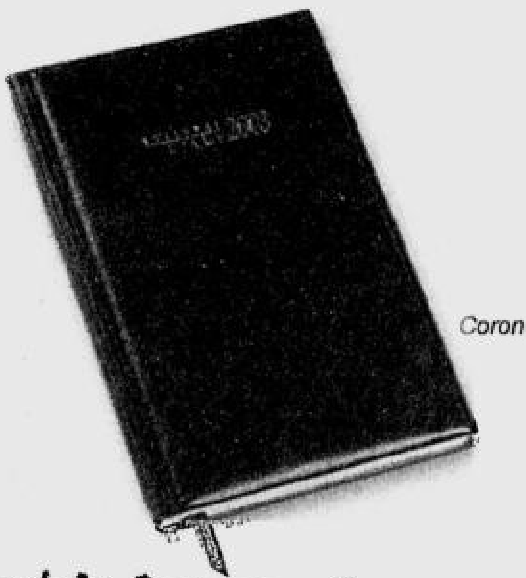
Steve Mfg. Brown Envelope



Jeret File Drawer

7. color code!

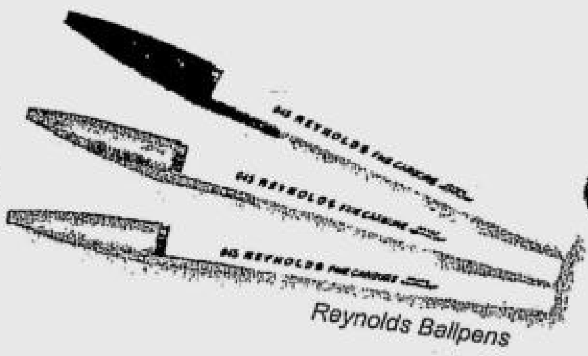
Best Buy Crayons



Coronet Business Diary 2003

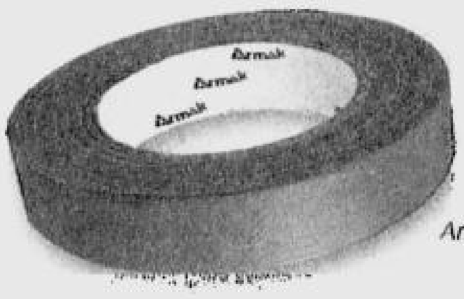
8. schedule appointments

9. write everything down



Reynolds Ballpens

10. stick to your list!



Armak Cloth Tape

Out with the old, *in with* National Book Store

The country's national bookstore.

So near yet so far from Makati's bustle

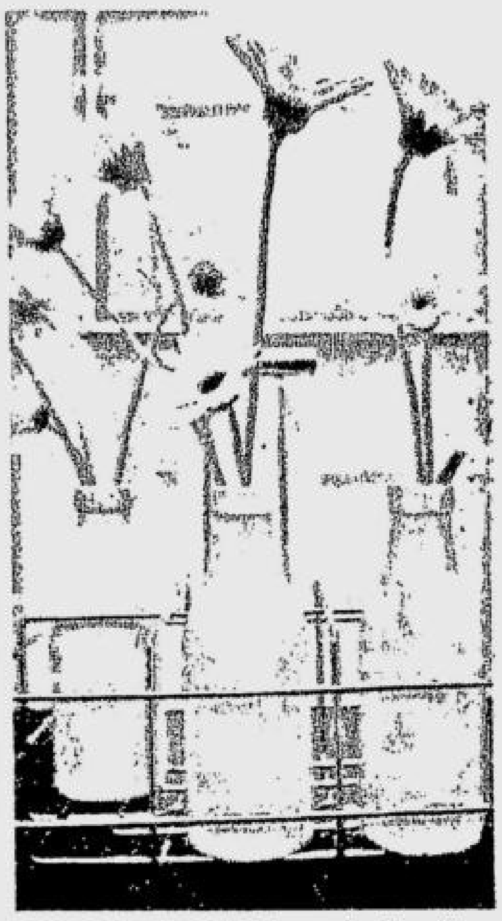
From page E2

sion of bigger space.

Eric also had to redo some features of the public areas. A generic white sink in the powder room, for instance, was replaced with a stainless steel basin mounted on ficem board.

The master bedroom evoked the same sense of order. This time, however, Eric worked around softer, more fluid lines. Aside from Liza's knitted bedspread, wall-to-wall carpeting in oyster gray gave the bedroom a warmer ambiance.

Except for a narrow corridor sandwiched by the bathroom and the closet, Eric had the entire bedroom floor raised several inches for Dennis and Liza to enjoy the sweeping vista provided by a series of picture windows. Roman shades repeat the patterns of the reupholstered love seat by the foot of the bed, while generic accent pieces enhance the bedroom's hotel feel.

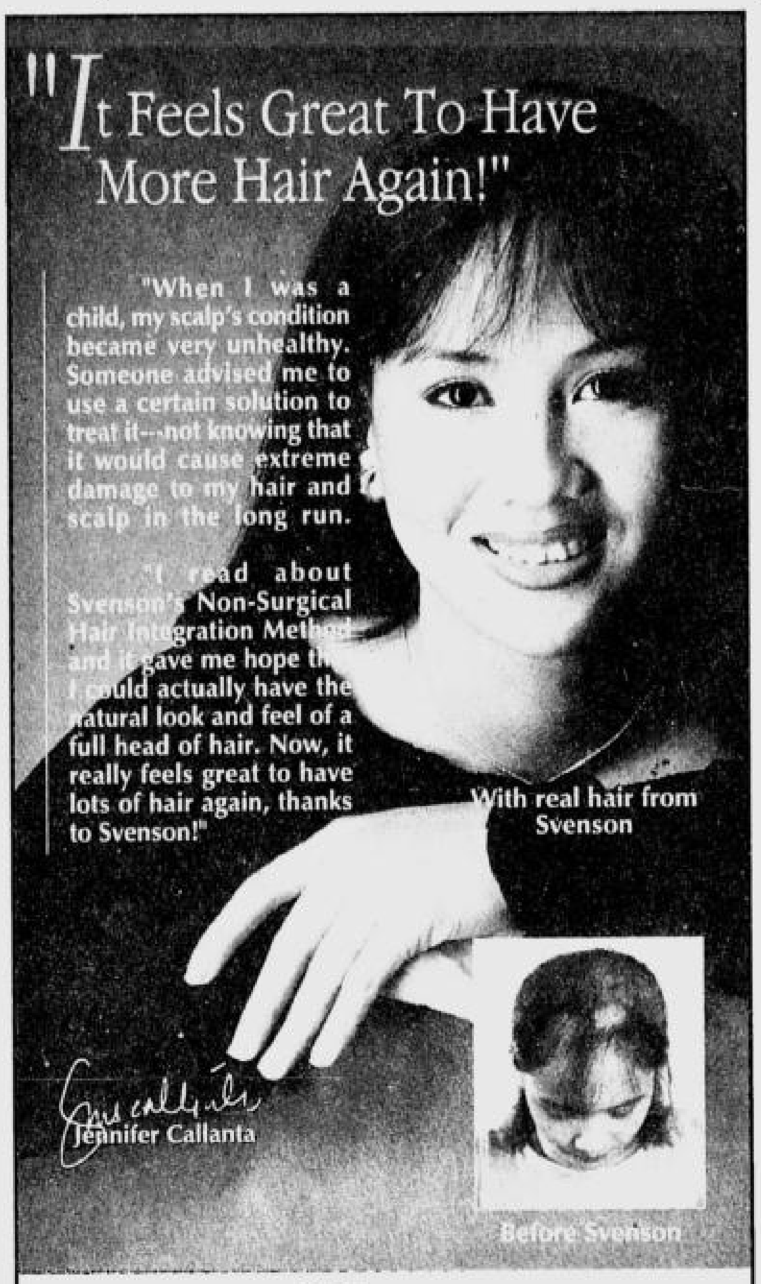


LOW-MAINTENANCE flowers in chic milk bottles

"The couple has been clear from the start," says Eric. "They wanted a bedroom with a hotel look that's clean, elegant and easy to maintain."

Actually, living in a condo unit is no different from staying in a hotel. Both condo living quarters and hotel room are usually situated several floors from the streets below and come with such amenities as hot and cold running water and 24-hour cable television, a favorite pastime of the Saluds as they cocoon themselves from the world outside.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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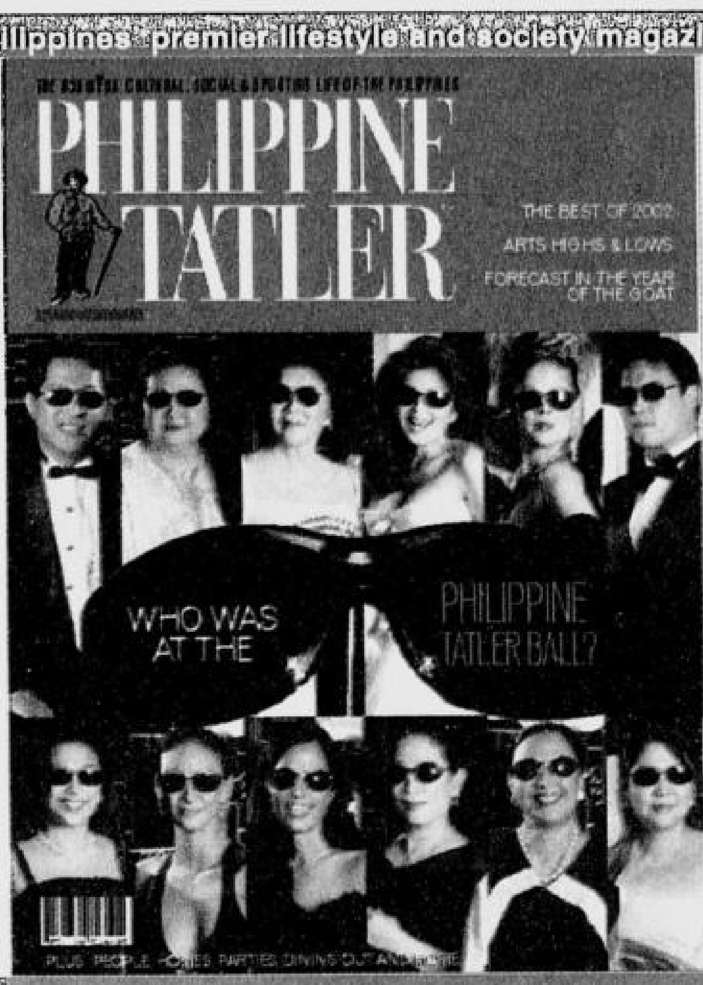

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THE BEST OF 2002
ARTS HIGHS & LOWS
FORECAST IN THE YEAR OF THE GOAT
WHO WAS AT THE PHILIPPINE TATLER BALL?
PLUS PEOPLE HOMES PARTIES DINING OUT AND MORE

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Rustan's

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0055, Series of 2003.

Canon

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Photography buffs now see digital

WHAT is with photography that makes many people go crazy once they've tried it? For a lot of people, it is one hobby they cannot live without. While for some, capturing an image is an obsession.

Film camera users, even professional photographers, are now seeing digital. And Canon had long set its sights on making the life of photographers much, much easier. Digital photography is slowly finding its place under the sun; people are noticing its many advantages; and edging out film camera is not far from reality. Canon digital cameras evolved in a way that first-time users, or those who switched from another brand, get hooked not only in taking pictures but also with the camera too.

Canon Marketing Philippines will feature its latest digital cameras and accessories in Photoworld Manila 2003 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati, starting today until Jan 22. It is one of the biggest and longest running photography events in the country. Visitors will have a chance to see the exhibit of photos taken by celebrities and photo enthusiasts using Canon's professional digital cameras, the Digital EOS series.

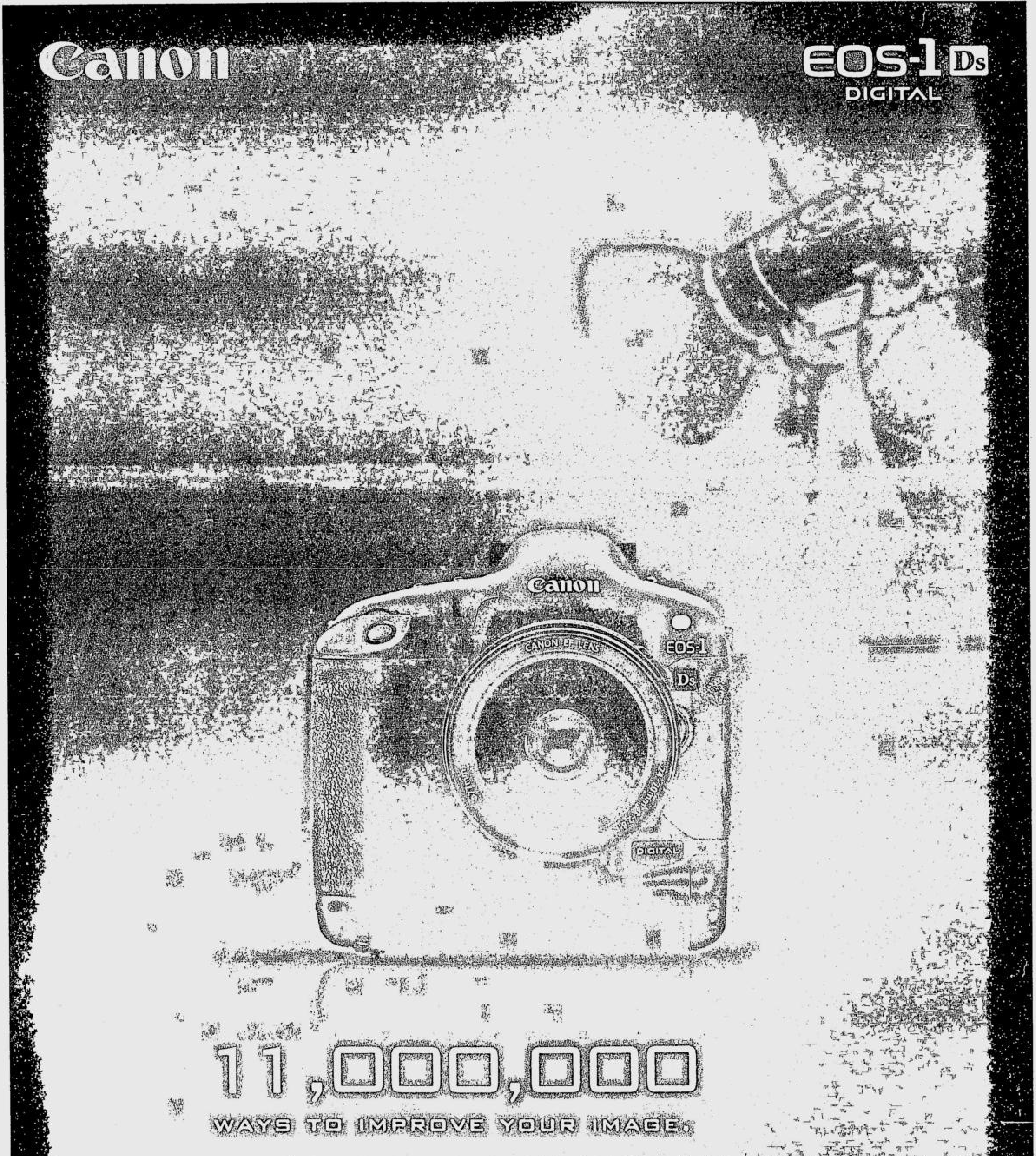
Digital camera converts

Film camera and/or other digital camera users discovered Canon's pioneering standards in innovating its line of digital cameras. Its edge among other digital cameras is its optical excellence which is a very critical part in photography.

To see for yourself how Canon converts and fans took advantage of its line of digital camera, some

PHOTOGRAPHY/F2

'BLUE MACAW' by Emy Arcilla



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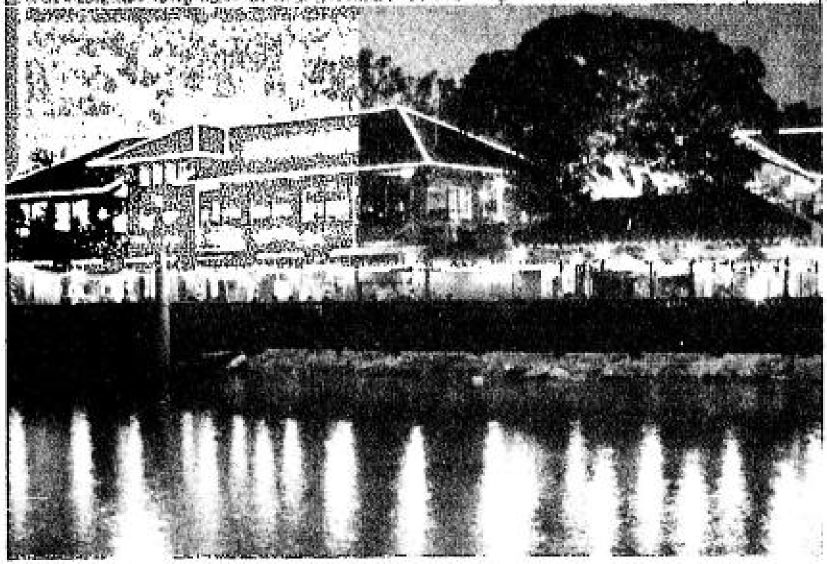
Photography buffs see digital



"COLORS OF MANILA BAY" by Nap Taas

From page F1

people who excelled in their fields will showcase their best captured images. From nature to sports to a family album, Canon has it for you.

Canon digital camera users who will display their works of art at the Photoworld are renowned fashion photographer **Raymund Isaac**; **Vic Icasas**, musician and composer; **Derick Gamboa**, VP for Ericsson Telecoms Inc. **Enchong Formoso**, Duty Free executive; **Emy Arcilla**, broadcaster and executive consultant; **Mike Llorin**, wedding photographer; **Dr. Adel Samson**, ophthalmologist; **Chad Samaniego**, IT consultant; **Jeth Gool**, analyst and programmer; **Edward Simon**, professional photographer; **Al Dimalanta**, college professor; **Jake Versoza**, IT manager, **Anson Hao**, digital photographer, and special artwork by **Ali Figeroa** from digital photos of professional photographer **Arnel Garcia**.

Most Canon digital camera users agree on one thing: Canon's image quality is nothing but exceptional. Canon digital SLRs (D-SLR) is also best known for "its sharpness and its useful and practical features," this according to photographer Edward P. Simon who used to shoot car races like Formula 1 and CART series.

Excellent image quality

For IT consultant Chad Samaniego, Canon has been his life in photography, having been a religious Canon user since age 9. "My first SLR was a canon EF. It was given to me by my dad, that camera is a classic. I practically learned photography from it," he said.

Eppie Quizon broke into the limelight as an innovative and experimental photographer before establishing himself as an actor. Quizon is very fond of Canon EOS D60 which he often uses in his out-of-town, as well as studio, photo shoots. His works have elicited positive response and earned him respect in the two industries he is involved in.

Musician Vic Icasas at present owns an EOS-1D, the digital camera built for professionals but nevertheless suits amateurs too. Icasas got into photography only two years ago and had been an enthusiast ever since. "I did not start out with a film camera of any kind; I went digital from the very first shot," he said. His first camera though was a small digital point and shoot but later shifted to the Canon Pro90IS. Icasas followed and tried the evolution of Canon digital cameras.

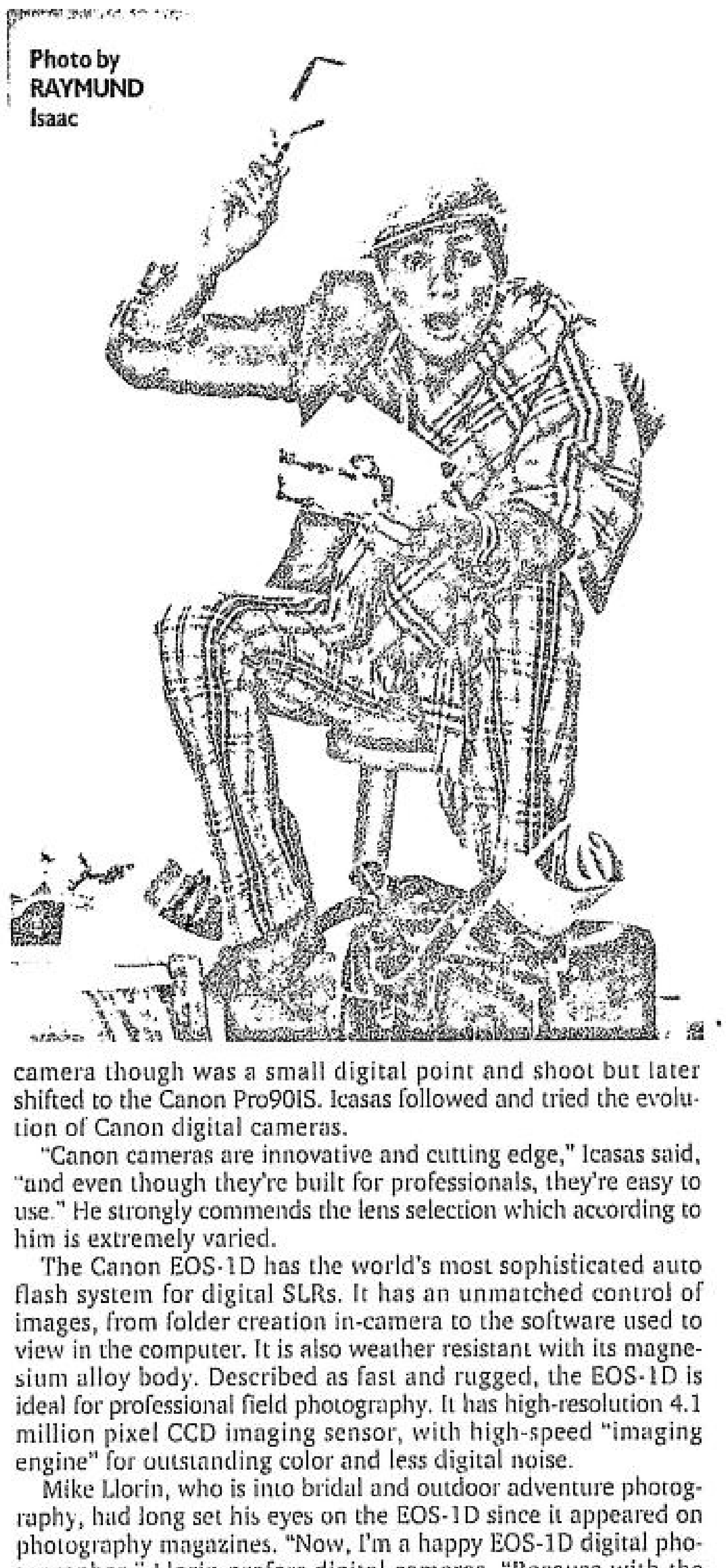
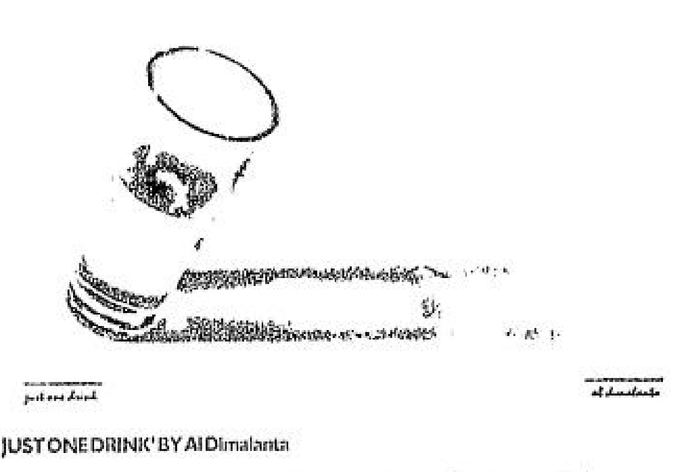


Photo by RAYMUND Isaac

"Canon cameras are innovative and cutting edge," Icasas said, "and even though they're built for professionals, they're easy to use." He strongly commends the lens selection which according to him is extremely varied.

The Canon EOS-1D has the world's most sophisticated auto flash system for digital SLRs. It has an unmatched control of images, from folder creation in-camera to the software used to view in the computer. It is also weather resistant with its magnesium alloy body. Described as fast and rugged, the EOS-1D is ideal for professional field photography. It has high-resolution 4.1 million pixel CCD imaging sensor, with high-speed "imaging engine" for outstanding color and less digital noise.

Mike Llorin, who is into bridal and outdoor adventure photography, had long set his eyes on the EOS-1D since it appeared on photography magazines. "Now, I'm a happy EOS-1D digital photographer." Llorin prefers digital cameras, "Because with the absence of film processing in digital photography, it is more environmental friendly than the traditional image capture."



'JUST ONE DRINK' BY Al Dimalanta

For Roderick Gamboa, vice president of Ericsson Telecommunications Inc., the Canon EOS 1D gives him photos of superb image quality. There is less digital noise, superior highlights and shadow tonalities and a wider range of contrast. He also commends that digital photography takes a shorter learning curve compared to using traditional film cameras.

Evolutionary in design, revolutionary in performance

A favorite now among photographers is the EOS D60. Introduced as evolutionary in design yet revolutionary in performance, Canon EOS D60 has 6.29 megapixel CMOS image sensor coupled to the superior optics of EF lenses. It can capture the finest details with brilliant color fidelity, wider tonal range, and smoother gradations. Firing continuously at three frames per second, this digital SLR can record a continuous burst of eight shots.

Proud owners of EOS D60 like Emy Arcilla, a broadcaster and an executive consultant, loves Canon's color output. "Colors are

PHOTOGRAPHY/F4

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Picture this; if you own one of Canon's new digital cameras with Dircect Print Mode, all you need is a cable that will directly connect to a CP-100. Using Canon photo paper, print the pictures you've taken a while ago straight from the camera. Choose from different sizes, from card size to 3R and 4R, and even sticker label photos.

Printing has never been this fast! You can print a card size or a sheet of sticker label prints in an amazing 40 seconds in CP-100. Bright, clear, sharp, and protected with a special UV coating, the prints sometimes are even better than the ones done in photo labs.

The bubble jet printer is what you'll need. Canon S830D bubble jet printer gives you a 2400x1200 dpi. Especially designed to suit your digital needs, you can just insert the memory card to the adapter of an S830D, and print your photos right there and then. This printer has a six-color Individual Think Tanks system. Simply put, there's no waste of ink color here compared with other cartridges. If one color is already used up, you can replace that color only and other colors can still be used until they're empty. Your computer will also remind you when it's about time to change the printer's ink.

Digital Cameras compatible with the CP-100 card photo printer are: PowerShot A100 / A200, PowerShot A10 / A20 / A40, Digital Ixus V, V2 and V3, PowerShot S30 / S40 / S45, PowerShot G2/ G3.

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CP-100

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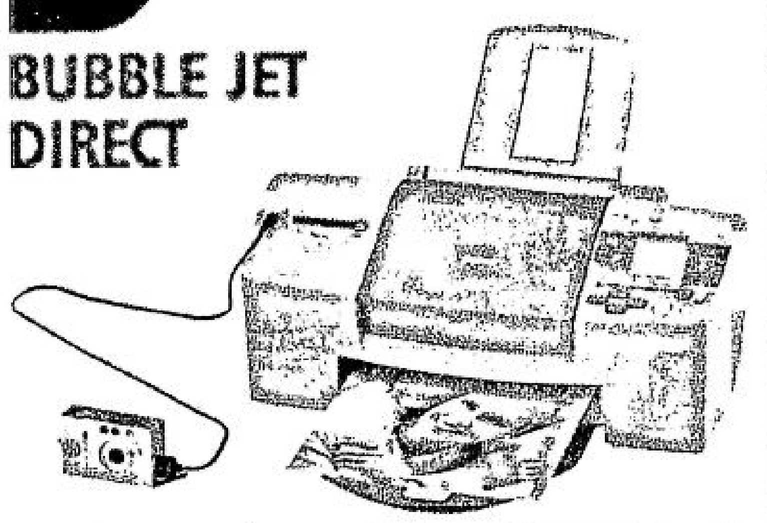

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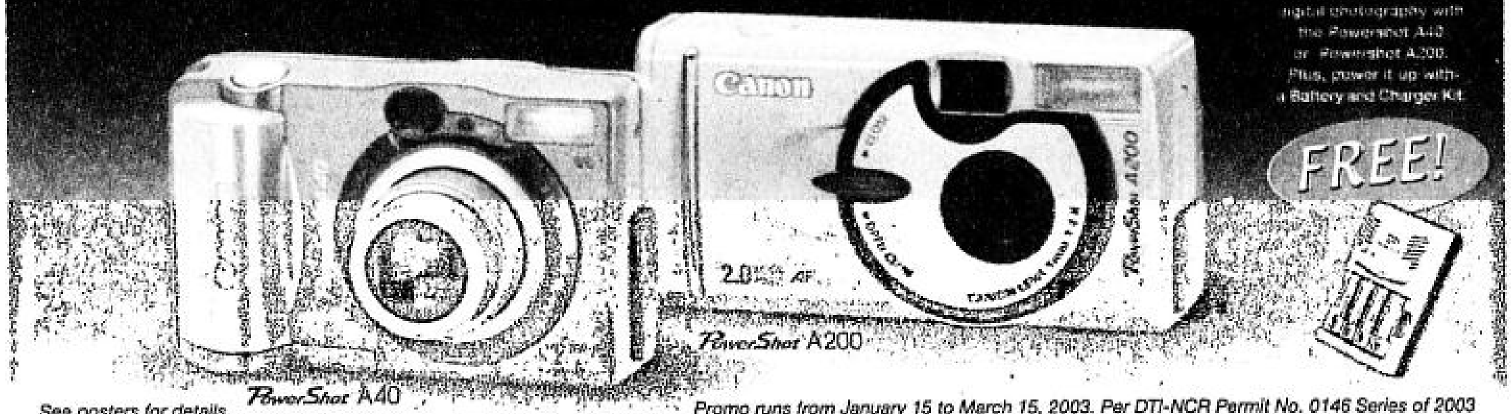

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Canon

All style, all substance

CANON launches the world's smallest 3.2 megapixel digital camera with optical zoom and LCD monitor—the Digital Ixus V³. This new seductive model in the Digital Ixus line-up offers real substance with a 3.2 megapixel CCD and a new high-performance Digital Imaging Core (Digic) processor and 2x optical zoom lens.

The new Digital Ixus V³ still boasts the signature Ixus style with brushed stainless steel exterior and sleek design but is also packed with Canon's latest photo technology. The 3.2 megapixel CCD offers higher resolution than its popular predecessor, the Digital Ixus V², and images are better suited for A4 prints.

"This new Ixus is truly all style and all substance," says Komatsuzaki, executive vice president of Canon Consumer Imaging. "Retailing the trademark sleek look of the Digital Ixus range, the Digital Ixus V³ also incorporates all Canon's latest technologies and is set to make a major impact on the 3 megapixel market."

The Digital Ixus V³ is the ultimate style—fashioned from high-quality stainless steel, this camera is a work of art. Managing to remain compact despite the wealth of technology and all additional features, this new Digital Ixus illustrates that smart technology need not mean a compromise on style.

Measuring less than 20 mm when retracted, the Digital Ixus V³ lens is both high quality and super powerful. The 2x zoom covers a good range of photo opportunities and since the lens retracts into the camera body the Ixus V³ is the perfect "take everywhere" camera, fitting neatly into a purse or even a pocket.

The Ixus V³ features the new Canon Digic (Digital Imaging Core) ultra fast processor. This innovative processor links six elements: CCD Control, AE/AF/AWB, signal processing, JPEG compression, memory card and LCD monitor display—to deliver outstanding images and overall performance that hallmarks Canon cameras.

DIGITAL IXUS V³

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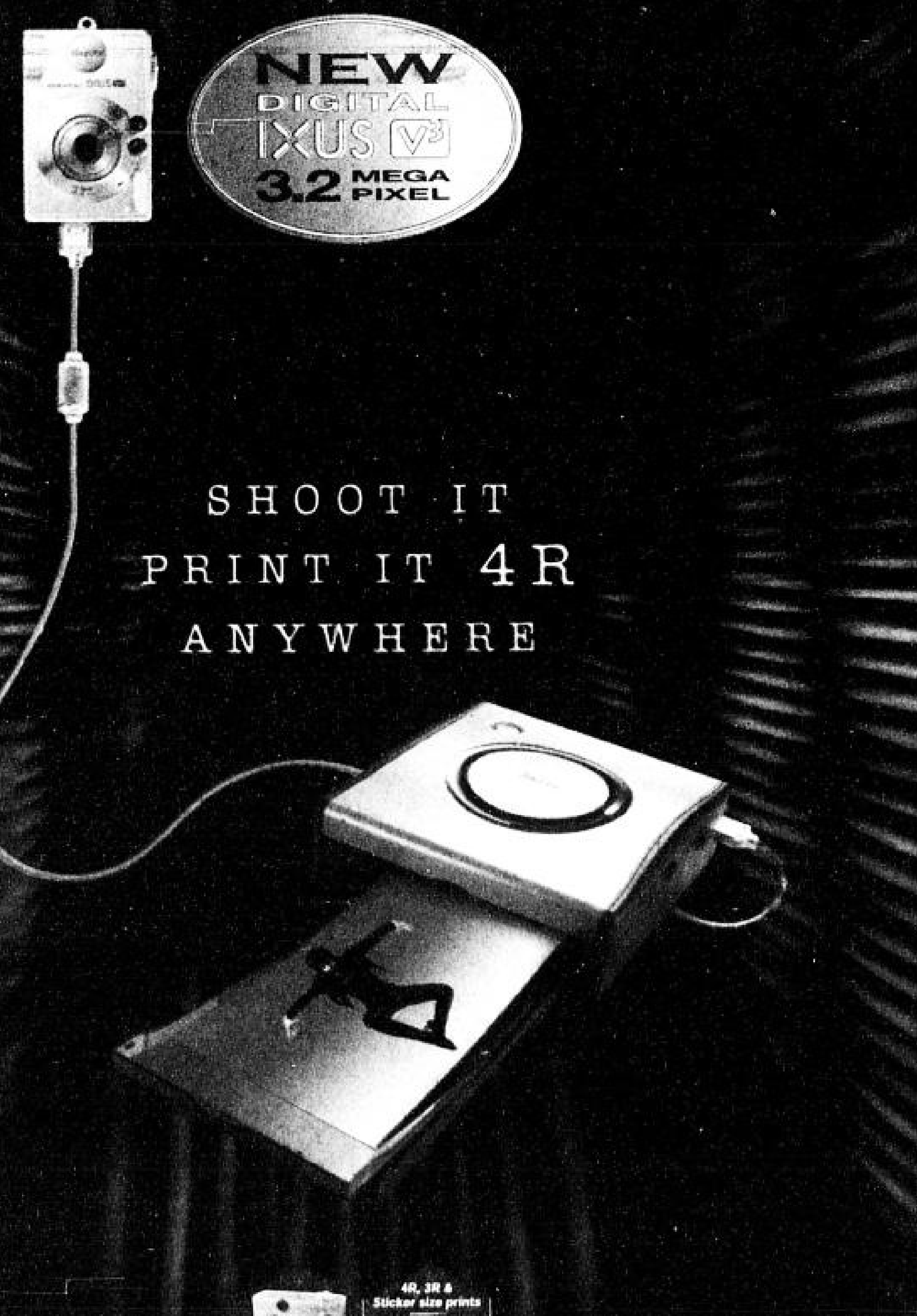

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Digital IXUS V³
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Digital IXUS V²
2.0 megapixel

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¹Digital IXUS V³

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Canon

'MAONG' by Al Dimalanta

Photography buffs see digital

From page F2

The company is re-introducing the Canon Professional Services (CPS) to include not only Canon professional film photographers but Digital EOS users as well

more accurate over all. Color saturation is more natural," he said. It was the Canon PowerShot G2 that impressed him and eventually got him hooked to Canon. Arcilla's subjects are mostly nature, people, golf and things.

The release of Canon EOS D30 paved the way for Al Dimalanta, college professor, freelance corporate communicator, and rock musician. His first ever digital SLR is the EOS D30. "The D30 definitely helped me in fully understanding the intricacies of exposure and composition," he said.

Dimalanta sticks to Canon because it uses CMOS sensors that produce relatively noise-free images. On the perks of digital photography, Dimalanta has this to say: "Digital photography offers several conveniences that film does not, like being able to immediately see the shots that one took, and being able to digitally enhance such images through the computer. The ability to see one's shots on-the-spot will help students of photography learn the basics of exposure and composition faster."

The newest addition to Canon's Digital EOS cameras is the pricey but top of the line EOS-1Ds. Its claim to fame is the 11.1 million pixels and a full-frame CMOS sensor. "This is what professionals have been asking for." Compared with EOS D30 and D60 CMOS imaging sensors, combine superb color, dynamic range and low noise, the EOS-1Ds almost doubles its resolution for a quantum leap in digital image quality. And there's more good news for EOS-1Ds: battery longevity will never be a problem. CMOS sensors consume less power than CCD sensors of the same resolution. The EOS-1Ds's electronic circuits ensure that electricity flows only to active components. The Canon EOS-1Ds is truly *the* D-SLR to watch out for.

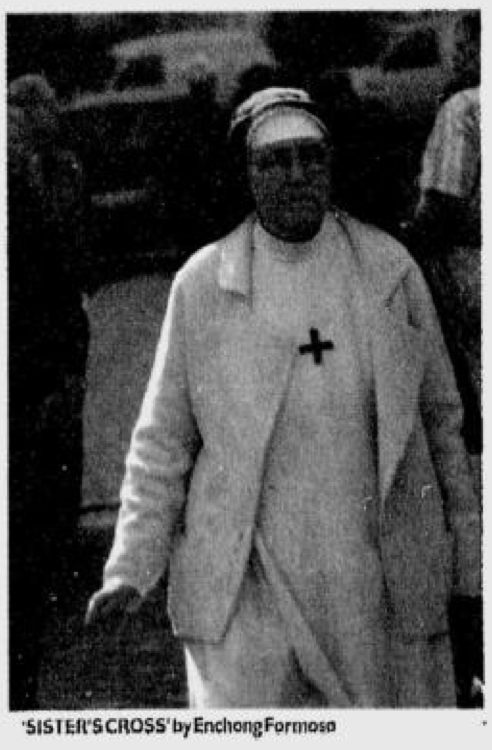
Canon's commitment to its clientele doesn't end on just selling its products. The company is reintroducing the Canon Professional Services (CPS) to include not only Canon professional film photographers but Digital EOS users as well. CPS was created to provide photographers around the world with faster equipment service to help them work with minimum delays. CPS members get special discounts for servicing of photographic equipment. They can also be assured of priority over non-CPS members in equipment service; backup loan equipment subject for availability though; and free invitations to activities organized by Canon.

As Dimalanta would attest, "I see that Canon's after-sales support is top-notch."

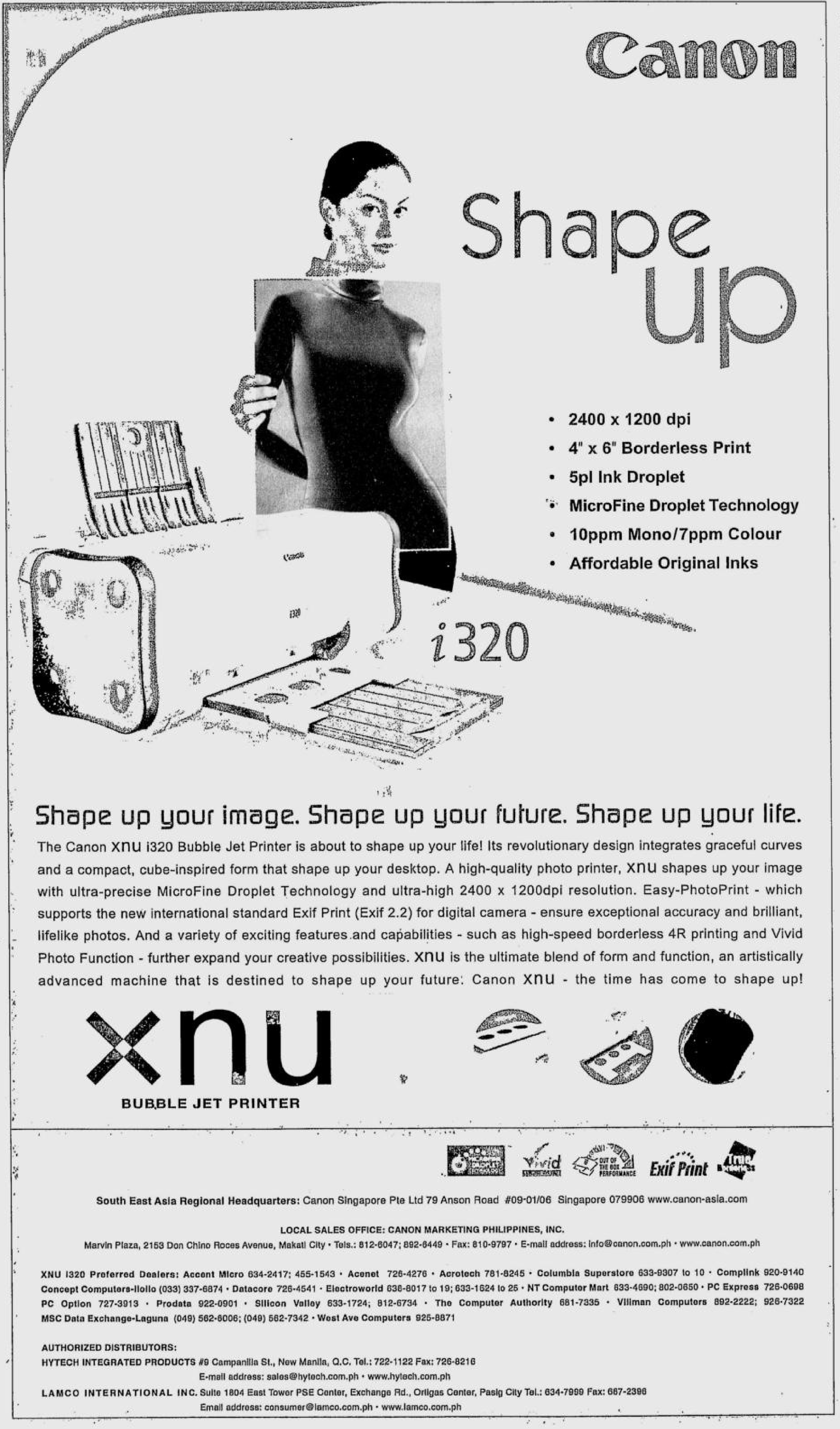
The "marriage" of photography and technology proved a welcome relief for camera enthusiasts. Its many benefits, advantages, and rewards have given photography a new meaning. Seasoned photographers, some were even reluctant to the idea of digital photography, are switching or at least trying their hands on this breakthrough. No wonder fashion photographer Raymund Isaac has gone digital as well. Now who can challenge that?

"I doubt if I will ever go back to film again," this according to Dimalanta.

Marlet D. Salazar



'SISTER'S CROSS' by Enchong Formoso



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